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OPINION METER

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of June 29, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Billy Mays, 50

Billy Mays, the burly, bearded television pitchman, has died. He was 50.

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$49.97K grant to fund underwater mapping of Saipan lagoon. **PAGE 3**

Tobacco use declines among middle school students. **PAGE 3**

Judge: Govt owes Fund $231.6M

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Superior Court judge ruled yesterday that the CNMI government owes the NMI Retirement Fund $231.6 million in damages and that the law suspending government contributions to the Fund is unconstitutional.

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Next move is dialogue; govt to explore options

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The top NMI Retirement Fund official greeted yesterday's Superior Court ruling as a piece of good news, not only for Commonwealth retirees but for everyone who is a recipient of the defined benefit plan.

Now that the court has ruled in their favor, Fund board chair Juan T. Guerrero said their next move will be to contact the executive and legislative

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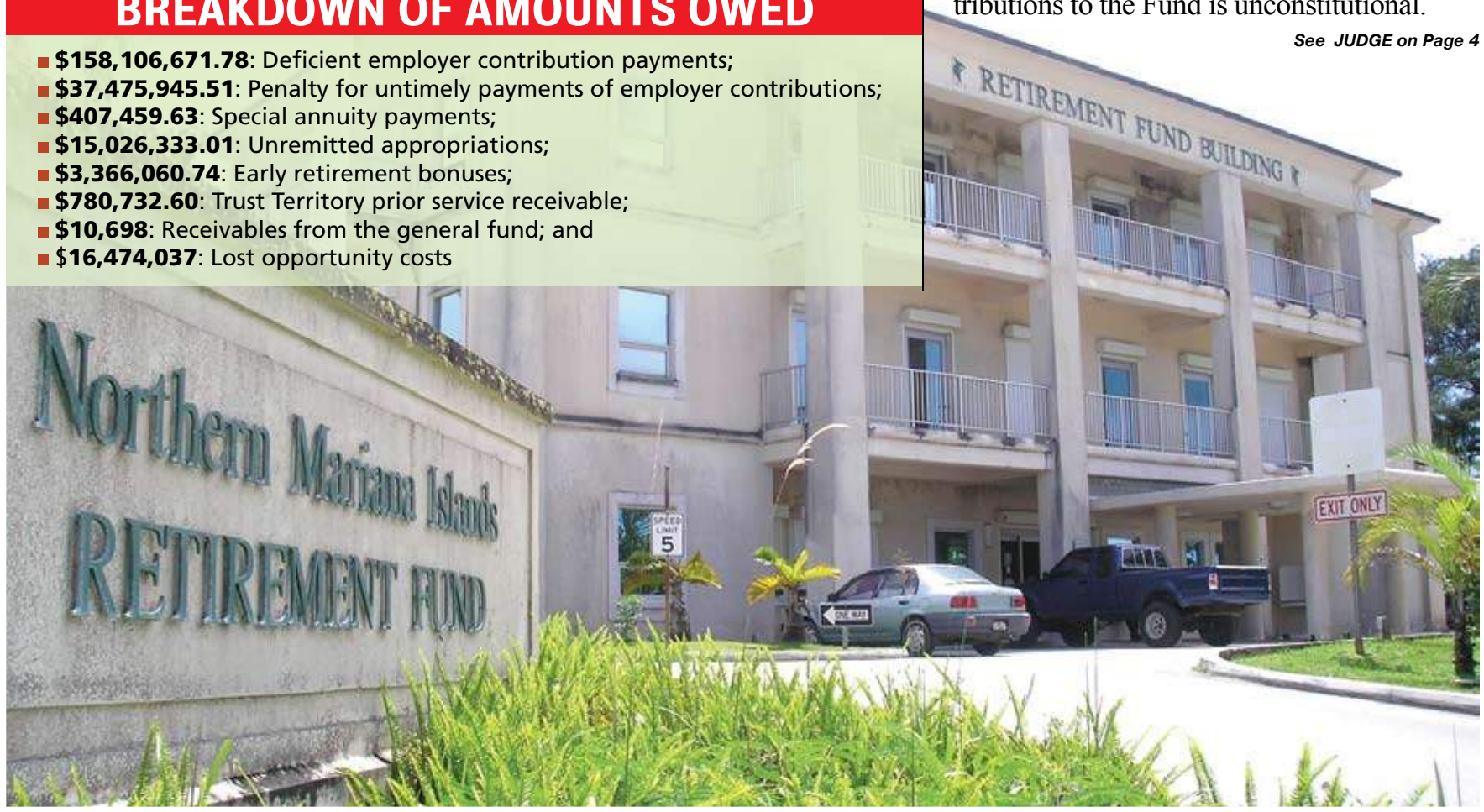
BREAKDOWN OF AMOUNTS OWED

- **$158,106,671.78**: Deficient employer contribution payments;
- **$37,475,945.51**: Penalty for untimely payments of employer contributions;
- **$407,459.63**: Special annuity payments;
- **$15,026,333.01**: Unremitted appropriations;
- **$3,366,060.74**: Early retirement bonuses;
- **$780,732.60**: Trust Territory prior service receivable;
- **$10,698**: Receivables from the general fund; and
- $**16,474,037**: Lost opportunity costs



ON TOP OF UP TO $12M IN OVER-EXPENDITURE

- Admin to appeal court ruling on Retirement Fund
- Legislature to re-assess FYs 2009, 2010 budgets

CNMI govt expects $4.1M additional deficit

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The government is expected to have an additional $4.1 million in deficit for Fiscal Year 2009 because the Marianas Public Land Trust will not be giving to the general fund the resource listed as "recovered interest," contrary to the Fitial administration's budget submission, Sen. Maria "Frica" T. Pangelinan said yesterday.

This deficit is on top of the $10 million to $12 million in over-expenditure projected by the administration for FY 2009, as Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos

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Local

Full-day kindergarten instruction eyed for public schools

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System's kindergarten program may soon be expanded to become a full-day instruction for all islands once improvements on the schools' buildings are completed through the stabilization fund.

Board of Education vice chair Herman T. Guerrero disclosed this to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, saying the board and the Legislature are currently in talks to amend the compulsory age for public school children.

The kindergarten program, which accommodates 5-year-old children, is not required by law but the board implemented it as a policy so it could serve a greater number of Commonwealth kids.

Based on the PSS Facts & Figures for SY 2008-2009, there were a total of 614 kindergarteners enrolled in 12 elementary schools on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. Of the number, 312 were male and 302 were female.

Guerrero said that budget constraints hindered the program's expansion plan in the past. Primary schools conducted double sessions for their kindergarten as a result of lack of teachers and lack of available classrooms for all enrollees.

Guerrero

Guerrero said these are also the same reasons why schools have been limiting their number of kindergarten enrollees. Every year, public schools had a significant number of kids on their kindergarten waiting list.

But now that a significant portion of the $32.2 million stabilization fund will be used for public school renovations and building improvements, Guerrero is confident that the problem would soon be addressed.

"This is one of the things that the PSS-CIP [capital improvement project] is prioritizing because the only problem why some schools have double sessions for kindergarten was because of the lack of space and classrooms on campus," Guerrero said. "I think this is the appropriate time for the board to look at expanding our kindergarten program to make it full day instructions in all our schools. This way, we're serving the best interest of our kids."

Guerrero said PSS is expecting a significant number of teachers to join the workforce next school year as a result of the federal government's approval to restore some teacher positions.

According to U.S. Department of Education, insular areas must use a portion of their total educational stabilization fund for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public educational facilities that are used primarily for classroom instructions.

It must also be used to enhance the qualifications and effectiveness of teachers in public elementary and secondary schools, restore teacher positions, and expand career and technical education programs in secondary schools.

The $32.3 million education stabilization funds will be used by CNMI-PSS from July 2009 through Sept. 30, 2011.

Yumul pushes $162.82M budget

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) said yesterday he will be pushing for today's passage of House Concurrent Resolution 16-4 setting the Fiscal Year 2010 budget cap at $162.82 million. Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Maria "Frica" Pangelinan is amenable to the idea.

The House and Senate will have back-to-back sessions this morning.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) said the Senate will wait for the House action on Yumul's concurrent resolution.

"It's unlikely to be passed by the House and Senate on the same day," he said.

Yumul

Of the $162.82 million in identified budgetary resources for FY 2010, some $4.65 million is earmarked for tobacco control, solid waste management, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s debt to the Marianas Public Land Trust. An additional $7.67 million will go to payment of debts.

Only $150.5 million will be available to fund government operations and activities.

Legislative initiative

Pangelinan (D-Saipan) also said yesterday that she will introduce today a legislative initiative mandating the government to have a fiscally responsible budget or continuing resolution, and without budget deficits or debt arising from budget deficits.

Her draft legislative initiative requires the Finance secretary to certify to the Legislature, by April 30 each year, the estimated revenues for the following fiscal year.

It also requires the Finance secretary to certify to the Legislature by April 30 each year, the total amount of the existing deficit.

A legislative initiative is a proposal to amend the Constitution. It must be passed by three-fourths of the members of each house. It does not require the governor's approval, but needs to be ratified by voters.

Runoff election bill

Vice Speaker Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) yesterday said he would like to see his runoff election bill passed by the Senate today and transmitted to the House promptly.

"I think that both the House and the Senate were given at least two opportunities to look at and revise the bill. I think it's time to pass the bill and send it to the governor for action," Deleon Guerrero said in a phone interview.

Deleon Guerrero's House Bill 16-220, introduced in February this year, provides for runoff election procedures and allow for the counting of absentee ballots on the day of election.

The bill went through amendments in both the House and Senate. The latest action was the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs' amendment to allow registered voters to vote in the runoff gubernatorial election even if they failed to do so in the general elections.

But Pangelinan, chair of the committee, said yesterday the runoff election bill "will not be addressed" in today's session.

"This should not be done in a rush so that there will be no room for challenges later on because that will reflect on the Senate's work," she said.

If Deleon Guerrero's bill becomes law, it will be the first time in CNMI history that a runoff election is required if no candidate for governor gets more than half of the votes cast.

The next gubernatorial election is this November.

$49.97K grant to fund underwater mapping of Saipan lagoon

By ANITA B. HOGSCHNEIDER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The National Park Service announced Friday the award of a $49,967 grant that will be used to fund an archeological investigation of submerged World War II remains in the Tanapag lagoon.

The grant is part of some $1.36 million that is being released to help preserve and protect America's significant battlefield lands.

The grant for the CNMI will be given to Ships of Exploration and Discovery Research, an underwater archaeology research institute founded in 1989. The institute will help develop an underwater maritime heritage trail in the Tanapag lagoon.

This year's grants will also provide funding at endangered battlefields from the King Philip's War (1675-1676), Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Second Seminole War, Mexican-American War, Civil War, World War II and various Indian Wars. Awards were given to projects in 23 states or territories entailing archeology, survey, mapping, documentation, planning, education and interpretation.

ON THE NET

ABPP: http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp

The Battle of Saipan, which was fought between American and Japanese forces in the Mariana Islands during World War II, was one of the most politically and militarily significant battles of the war. American capture of Saipan brought land-based, long range B-29 bombers within range of striking Japan.

Through archeological survey, and GIS mapping of Invasion Beach at Tanapag Lagoon, this project will identify and document submerged remains of the Battle of Saipan for use in the future development of the heritage trail.

These grants are administered by the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program. Federal, state, local, and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions are eligible to apply for these battlefield grants each year. ABPP promotes the preservation of significant historic battlefields associated with wars on American soil.

Ex- Ms. NMI Universe Gridley quits Judiciary

Former Ms. CNMI Universe Virginia Gridley has stepped down as the Judiciary's public information officer and administrative officer.

Gridley recently left Saipan for Washington D.C. to further her education, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

Gridley, who used to be a television news reporter, assumed the position of PIO and administrative officer for the Judiciary in April 2008.

Jim Stowell, the former general manager of the defunct Saipan Cable TV, has been named the new PIO and administrator for the CNMI Supreme Court effective last week.

A graduate from Stanford University with a degree in Communications, Stowell had also held positions with Matson Navigation and with the Pacific Island Aviation Inc. in several capacities, including director of safety and chief operating officer.

"There's a number of important cases [and] I'll help keep the wheels turning smoothly," Stowell told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He said he's always been involved in administrative tasks and his new job entails the same line of work.

Stowell said he is pleased to assume a dual role as it will provide both the general administration and public relations opportunities that he has enjoyed with his other employers on Saipan.

"It is as much about whom you are doing it with as what you are doing. Being surrounded by many of the CNMI's best and brightest will certainly be mentally stimulating," he said.

He said he hopes to help make the court process more efficient for everybody's benefit and to communicate to the public that there are friendly and helpful people inside the House of Justice.

"A long-term goal is to provide greater access to court services through the Internet, with the theme 'Avoid the line, go online,'" Stowell said.

Chief Justice Miguel Demapan stated that Stowell's "broad managerial experience, dedication to the community and imaginative spirit will serve the Judiciary well."

"We consider ourselves fortunate to have him working with us," Demapan said.

The Judiciary created the PIO post to comply with a National Center for State Courts and State Justice Institute recommendation for the CNMI courts to appoint a PIO to meet the needs of the public.

According to the Judiciary, justices and judges are forbidden to comment during pending cases and a public liaison is critical in supporting communication between the Judiciary and the community. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Tobacco use declines among middle school students

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There is a declining trend in tobacco use among middle school students in the CNMI, according to the latest data culled by the Community Guidance Center.

In the 2009 CNMI-Epidemiological Profile on Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Illicit Drug Use released by the Center Friday, it said that middle school students who tried cigarette smoking (even one or two puffs) went down to 56.6 percent in 2007.

That number was at 58.5 percent in 2005, 68.8 percent in 2003, and 79.4 percent in 2001.

The data also showed a declining trend in the number of cigarette smoking in one or more of the past 30 days, going down to 20.7 percent in 2007 from 21.7 percent in 2005, 32.8 percent in 2003 and 41.4 percent in 2001.

However, there was a slight increase in the number of students who smoked on 20 or more of the past 30 days: 2.8 percent in 2007 compared to 2.3 percent in 2005. Still this is way below the 7.4 percent in 2001.

Students who smoked more than 10 sticks per day on days smoked during the past 30 days also slightly increased to 3.6 percent in 2007 from 3.3 percent in 2005.

Those who usually buy their cigarettes in stores or gas stations in the past 30 days went down to 12.2 percent in 2007 from 12.8 percent in 2005.

There was also a decrease among those who smoked daily or at least one cigarette a day for the past 30 days to 7.1 percent in 2007 from 7.7 percent in 2005.

Students who used chewing tobacco, snuff or dip on one or more occasion in the past 30 days also declined to 27.7 percent from 30.2 percent and those who smoked cigars or cigarillos (little cigars) increased to 9.4 percent from 8.5 percent.

Data also showed a downward trend in the number of students who smoked cigarettes, used chewing tobacco, snuff or dip to 32.8 percent from 36.5 percent.

Figures also showed that tobacco use before the age of 13 decreased from 40 percent in 2003 to 29 percent in 2007.

CGC said this may be due to the aggressive anti-smoking campaigns in schools, community and the media.

Data used were from the period 2001 to 2007 and were based on the Public School System's Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Over 400 attend NMC's Cash for College

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, standing, and Daisy Manglona-Propst of the NMC Financial Aid Office, far right, offer assistance to participants filling out financial aid forms at the "Cash for College" workshop on Thursday.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 400 students and parents attended the recent Cash for College workshop hosted by the Northern Marianas College.

In a statement yesterday, NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said she was pleased with the event's turnout.

"We were extremely pleased with the large turnout, which filled the workshop to capacity on both sessions," said Fernandez.

The free workshop was organized by the Northern Marianas College recruitment team with support from the College Access Challenge Project.

The event, held at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on June 25, gave students and parents step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms. It also gave students a chance to maximize the scholarship opportunities available to them for college.

The two-session workshop focused on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Aid, and the CNMI Scholarship.

Fernandez began both sessions by giving participants a brief update on NMC's accreditation efforts, saying her recent meeting with accreditation officials in San Francisco went well.

Janice Tenorio, dean of Student Services at NMC, said many high school students were at the event. "We're extremely glad to be providing this type of assistance to our students. We're so happy that many recent high school graduates came to take advantage of the numerous financial aid that's out there," Tenorio said.

She said those who weren't able to make it to the workshop and still need assistance may approach the Office of Admissions and Records or the college's Financial Aid Office for help.

The deadline for submitting applications for the CNMI Scholarship and Saipan SHEFA is July 1, 2009. For the CNMI Scholarship, the Honors Application and supporting documents are due June 30, 2009. The application for the SHEFA application must be accompanied by an acceptance letter, official transcript, and proof of residency.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW09-RFP-020

CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE CNMI RIGHTS-OF-WAY MANUAL FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO.CM-NH-0075 (002)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies or individuals to provide **Consultant Services for the Preparation of the CNMI Rights-of-Way Manual, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.**

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§ 70-30.3-310** of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of work will be available on or after June 23, 2009 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A Pre-proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on July 9, 2009. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or faxed to (670)234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time July 16, 2009.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

Qualifications of the company or individual – **30%**
Past Experience on similar projects – **40%**
Current workload and ability to perform the scope of work – **30%**

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW09-RFP-020"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposal must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 am local time July 21, 2009. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, July 21, 2009 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 21, 2009 and must be received no later July 30, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the responsible proposers who submit proposals determined to be most reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purposes of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. A fee shall be negotiated with the highest qualified consulting firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the Government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then another firm may be selected in the order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed. Award will be made to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined to be most advantageous to the CNMI Government taking into consideration price and the evaluation criteria set out in this RFP. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

The successful proposer will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

All response to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the Government.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become property of the Government.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement and Supply

Fewer Karidat beneficiaries in 2008

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The number of Karidat Social Service beneficiaries decreased in 2008 compared to the 2007 figure, largely due to the lack of funding that required the closure of some programs.

Total number served in 2008 was 4,096, while the total for 2007 was 4,515.

Programs last year included family service, victims of crime advocacy, hotline (or victim calls 441), Guma Esperansa, guest worker assistance and House of Manhoben (teen center).

Karidat executive director Angie Guerrero said the main reason for the decrease was the temporary closure of the House of Manhoben due to lack of funding and its coordinator having to attend to her husband's health problems.

She said the teen center was a one-woman job so it was temporarily stopped. The center was closed from October to December 2008. Its beneficiaries totaled 456 in 2008, compared to 1,074 in 2007.

The number of beneficiaries for family services also decreased to 1,656 in 2008 from 1,746 in 2007. Family services includes emergency food and shelter for food only and EFS for rent, donated food, used clothing, fire victims, and alcohol information class.

EFS for food decreased to 696 in 2008 from 784 in 2007 while EFS for rent also decreased from 246 to 152.

However, there was an increase in donated food to 363 in 2008 from 348 in 2007.

There was also a huge decline in the number of beneficiaries for the alcohol information class (DUI), which was only 49 in 2008, compared to 105 in 2007.

Used clothing beneficiaries increased from 226 to 385 while fire victims remained flat at 11.

Victims of crime advocacy increased in 2008 to 228 from 117 in 2007. These included temporary restraining order (49), crisis intervention (31), court moral support (78), review hearings (59), information and referral (7), and case management (4).

Hotline calls also increased to 1,404 in 2008 from 1,322 in 2007, while admissions at the Guma Esperansa declined to 175 (87 for adult and 88 for children) from the 256 recorded in 2007. Those admitted to the Guma Esperansa are victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, and for witness protection.

Some of these individuals have stayed in the shelter for months and were provided the full scope of services available at the shelter.

The guest worker assistance program, which was reactivated two years after being shelved since 2005, served a total of 177 in 2008.

JUDGE

From Page 1

According to Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo, the Fund has proven "by clear and convincing evidence" that it is owed damages amounting to $231,647,938.27.

The judge also found Public Law 15-15 unconstitutional, saying it illegally diminished and impaired the accrued benefits of the Fund and that it violates the contracts clause of both the U.S. and CNMI constitutions.

That law sought to alleviate the CNMI government's financial strain by suspending payment of all government obligations to the Fund in fiscal years 2006 and 2007.

Govendo said it was unreasonable for the CNMI to interfere with constitutionally protected retirement funds when other options were available and unexplored.

The judge's ruling is substantially higher than the $215 million the Fund says the CNMI government owes it; the CNMI government admits owing $213 million.

Negotiation

In his ruling, Govendo ordered the Finance Secretary to pay the Fund an employer contribution rate of 16 percent beginning with the pay period ending Aug. 14, 2009.

Govendo also directed Finance to pay the Fund 30 percent of hotel occupancy taxes and 20 percent of alcohol container taxes. The payment shall begin on Aug. 1, 2009.

The judge's ruling sets the stage of negotiations to begin between the CNMI government and the Fund on how to pay the amounts owed.

"The court expects that this decision will only be the starting point for negotiations between the two parties and reserves the right to modify its judgment in response to changing circumstances," Govendo said.

Updates

He said the judgment will need to be updated to take into account the additional damages that have accrued since April 15, 2009.

He said the employer contribution rate may need to be readjusted if it becomes apparent that 16 percent is not enough to keep the Fund alive.

The contribution rate will also need to be modified, he said, if any assets are executed or transferred between the parties according to an agreement and/or post-judgment remedies.

Govendo said issues about interest and the cost of the lawsuit will be taken up at a later date.

He set a review hearing for Nov. 2, 2009, to determine whether the government has complied with the order and possibly to discuss other issues.

Different factors

Govendo came up with the $231.6 million figure by examining factors such as audit confirmation letters, actuarially determined employer contribution rate, budget laws, memoranda of agreement, employer contribution, statutory penalty for untimely payments of employer contributions, special annuity, P.L. 8-31 appropriation, P.L. 8-30 early retirement bonus, P.L. 9-25 Trust Territory Prior Service Receivable, the amount due from the general fund, and lost opportunity costs.

Question of liability

In his decision, Govendo said the defendants chose to make the Fund painstakingly prove every bit of damages, even though the question of liability was uncontested.

"For the most part, the defendant does not dispute damages and the difference between what the plaintiff wants and what the defendant agrees to is minute considering the sums involved," the judge noted.

Basically, Govendo said, the government had no defenses to the amounts the Fund claimed. Instead, he said, the government argued that there were no damages since the actuarial rate takes into consideration past amounts owed and if the actuarial rate is paid, then past amounts would eventually be paid off.

"This may or may not be true. But it presents an interesting dilemma," the judge said.

The Fund wants the government to pay its employer contribution at the actuarial rate of 37.390 percent starting immediately.

"Even if the government started paying this actuarial rate upon the rendering of this judgment, how long would it take for the past debt to be paid off and would the Fund even survive? No one knows and the retirees cannot afford to wait and see how it would play out," Govendo said.

As for the employer contributions, Govendo said the evidence showed that the government owed $158,105,671.78 in deficient employer contribution payment as of April 15, 2009.

The judge agreed with the Fund that the balance owed for penalties due to the untimely payment of employer contributions is $37,475,945.51 as of fiscal year 2008.

On the special annuity, Govendo said the government became delinquent in 2001 and that the government currently owes $407,459.63 for this. The annuities are payments for former governors and lieutenant governors. The money was appropriated but were never remitted to the Fund.

Govendo said government also owes $15,026,333.01 in money that has been appropriated under P.L. 8-31 but was never remitted to the Fund.

With respect to the early retirement bonus, Govendo said the Fund disbursed $3,366,060.74, but the government has yet to repay this amount and owes it to the Fund.

On Trust Territory Prior Service receivables, the Fund paid out $780,732.60, but was never reimbursed. As such, the judge said, the government owes the Fund that amount.

With respect to amount due from the general fund, Govendo said as of Sept. 30, 2002 and 2001, the balance due from the general fund for this program was $10,698. "This amount remains unpaid and is booked as a receivable against the government," he said.

Regarding lost opportunity costs, the judge said, the Fund introduced several exhibits that summarized the returns that the Fund would have realized had the government paid all the monies owed the Fund. These, Govendo said, proved that the government owes the Fund was $16,474,037 in lost opportunity costs.

Default judgment

The Fund filed the lawsuit against the government, Gov. Benigno Fitial, Department of Finance, and then Finance Secretary Eloy Inos in 2006 over the government's failure to remit required payments.

Govendo granted the Fund's request for default judgment in November 2008 after the government waited nearly two years to respond to the complaint.

Govendo then conducted hearings to determine the remaining issue in the case—the amount of damages the government owed the Fund.

In those hearings, lawyer Viola Alepuyo appeared on behalf of the Fund. Assistant attorney general Anthony Welch represented Fitial and Inos.

CNMI

From Page 1

had said.

Re-assess budgets

Pangelinan (D-Saipan), at the same time, said the government needs to re-assess both the FY 2009 and FY 2010 budgets because of the impact of Superior Court Judge Kenneth Govendo's ruling yesterday on the Retirement Fund, with payments to the pension system ordered as early as Aug. 1.

Among other things, Govendo's ruling orders the Department of Finance to pay the Retirement Fund 30 percent of the hotel occupancy taxes and 20 percent of the alcohol container taxes beginning Aug. 1, 2009.

The government is also ordered to pay the Retirement Fund an employer contribution rate of 16 percent beginning with the pay period ending Aug. 14, 2009. This pay period will start on Aug. 7.

"We are incurring deficit in FY 2009. The $4.1 million from MPLT is over-budgeted, on top of the over-expenditures, and we have to reassess our budget for 2009 and 2010 because of the court ruling on the Fund case," Pangelinan told *Saipan Tribune.*

Appeal

But press secretary Charles P. Reyes said the administration is expected to appeal the court ruling.

"The order will have a very significant financial impact on government operations given that the total liability to Fund far exceeds the government's annual budget," he said.

The court ruling says the government owes the Fund $231 million in unpaid employer contributions plus penalty. ***(See main story)***

The $231 million obligation to the Fund is much higher than the CNMI government's FY 2009 budget of $156.76 million, and the proposed FY 2010 budget of $162.82 million.

MPLT funds

MPLT chair Vianney B. Hocog, in a June 4 letter to Pangelinan, said the FY 2009 resources labeled "MPLT recovered interest from NMHC [Northern Marianas Housing Corp.]" appears to be the interest MPLT earned on its loan to NMHC.

The interest was appropriated back to MPLT as principal, according to law. Hocog said these funds were to be retained by MPLT as an offset to its distribution to the general fund.

"The resulting machination of this process was the full distribution of the net distributable income for each year to the Commonwealth General Fund with the concurrent return of the appropriated amounts back to MPLT as principal. The Trust is limited by the Constitution to distribute only its income to the General Fund and cannot distribute principal," Hocog told Pangelinan.

NEXT

From Page 1

branches for a meeting on how to make the CNMI government pay.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. told *Saipan Tribune,* however, that the Fitial administration will explore its options.

Reyes said the ruling will have a very significant impact on government operations given that the damages awarded to the Fund— $231.6 million—far exceeds the government's annual budget.

"Given CNMI's current budget challenges, which are already quite formidable considering the dwindling resources, and the Legislature's refusal to implement unpopular but necessary austerity measures in an election year, this development presents another major financial challenge for our government," he said.

A great day

In a statement issued yesterday, Guerrero said it's also a great day for all current government employees because they will be assured that their sacrifices and hard work will be protected for them when they are ready to retire.

"The Retirement Fund staff and the board would like to thank every Defined Benefit Plan member who showed their support in various different ways during the litigation. Knowing they are behind us and they support our policy decision makes the long and hard hours we sacrificed worth it," Guerrero said.

As to where the CNMI government will get the money to pay the award, Guerrero said: "I'm sure that with all the great minds in the CNMI, we will be able to think outside the box in order to come up with realistic solutions to make the required payments as well as maintain critical public services."

Untrue

He said accusations about the board not caring whether the government goes bankrupt are untrue, unsubstantiated, and unjustified.

The chairman said that shutting down the government would do nothing but hurt the very members the board is working hard to protect.

He cited that a large number of government employees are also Defined Benefit Plan members who contribute to the Defined Benefit Plan.

"Retirees get medical attention from the Commonwealth Health Center; rely on the Department of Public Safety to provide order and safety in the community; the Public School System to teach their children and grandchildren; and all the government agencies who provide essential services to our community," Guerrero said.

"This is the very reason the board… chose first to communicate with the government before taking the final and ultimate step of filing a lawsuit," Guerrero said.

75 pct. of PSS teachers degree holders, 24 pct. have master's

Fitial re-appoints Juan S. Demapan to NMC board

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has re-appointed Juan S. Demapan to the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents after the latter's term expired last week.

Demapan, who finished the unexpired term of Agnes McPhetres in May, will serve a new four-year term as board member for Saipan. His term will expire on June 28, 2013.

Fitial

In his re-appointment letter, the governor said he and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos are confident that Demapan is qualified for the post and will be an asset on the board.

The appointment requires the advice and consent of the Senate.

Fitial has already informed Senate President Pete Reyes about Demapan's re-appointment, expressing optimism on the positive action of the upper chamber.

Demapan earlier announced his intention to run for the Saipan mayoralty. Current Mayor Juan B. Tudela's term expires this year.

In an interview yesterday, Demapan said he accepted the governor's re-appointment despite his mayoralty bid "because this is a public service."

Since last year, board members have been serving as volunteers after they waived their honorarium due to budget concerns.

The newly re-appointed member said the board still has concerns over what's going on at the college and that there's a continuing discussion as to how it can improve and retain the good quality of education on campus.

A decision on the college's accreditation status is expected this week from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. WASC had placed NMC on continued show-cause status.

Demapan said he's optimistic that NMC will receive "good news" on this front, as indicated by the college management and board members.

"From what I gathered from the board and the management, we're progressing very well in our accreditation and there were indications of a positive decision for NMC," he said.

On the issue of resignations at the college, Demapan admitted that there's a need for the board to look at how the college can assure the "protection" and "retention" of employees.

NMC provides two-year contracts for its personnel. Demapan believes that long-term employment contracts could be extended to employees based on the performance evaluation.

NMC, he said, has an important role to play in the development of the CNMI workforce.

Other board members are Charles Cepeda, Dr. Rita Inos, Elaine Orilla, Maria Malua Peter, and Janet King. The NMC board has one more seat to fill.

2-hour power outage due to hot spot in terminal lug

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A two-hour power outage hit Saipan again yesterday due to a "hot spot" in the power distribution system of feeder 4 and 7 in the As Mahetog area.

In a statement yesterday, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said the hot spot on the terminal lug "was affecting the power lines and if not repaired immediately, would have caused greater problems."

CUC said the repair required an emergency power interruption to ensure the safety of the line crew.

The outage occurred at about 2pm yesterday.

CUC said the emergency outage was initiated after all the necessary materials and equipment were mobilized at the project location. This coordination, CUC said, reduced the overall length of the power interruption.

CUC said the first partial was energized at 4:06pm and the second partial at 4:20pm.

Also, the previously announced maintenance work for Saturday, June 27, in Kagman 3 was performed and the project will continue on July 11 while the remaining stages of the project will be announced at a later date.

CUC explained that this maintenance project required replacing about 42 deteriorated pole top pins, or pole hardware, in the Kagman 3 area. These deteriorated pins are of steel composite and were installed 12 years ago and have now exceeded their life span, according to CUC.

"Because of their age and extensive exposure to the elements they require replacement to reinforce the circuit," it added.

Because of the constant ocean salt spray in the area, the new replacement pins have fiberglass shafts and are expected to be more dependable.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Of the CNMI's 510 public school teachers, 386 possess bachelor's degrees and 126 have master's degrees, according to the Public School System's latest classroom degree count. This translates to 75.6 percent and 24.7 percent, respectively.

The figure was disclosed by PSS and its board in the recently submitted revised application for the state stabilization fund available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, through which PSS stands to receive $32.3 million.

PSS said a portion of that money will be used to enhance the qualifications and effectiveness of its teachers in public elementary and secondary schools.

The system requires all classroom teachers to have at least a bachelor's degree in the subject area that they are assigned to teach.

PSS also said there are six teachers who have doctoral degrees, or 1 percent, as of the current school year.

"We have adopted the Praxis series of tests as our rigorous state exam that evidences teacher core content knowledge. We have noted that the student test scores on the SAT-10 have almost doubled across the past four years since the CNMI Board of Education adopted the Praxis tests," PSS said in its report to the U.S. Department of Education.

As a school district, PSS is projected to meet its 2010 student learning goal of scoring at or above the 50th percentile on the SAT-10 complete battery test.

At present, 67 percent of PSS teachers are classified as highly qualified and are receiving higher pay after passing the Praxis tests, getting their degrees, and obtaining valid certifications.

"We project that 75 percent of our teachers will have passed the Praxis tests by the beginning of this school year and 80 percent by the end of school year," the report stated.

PSS data also shows that students taught by a teacher who is highly qualified, has five or more years teaching experience, and has master's degree consistently score 10 to 18 percentile higher on the SAT-10 than students taught by a novice teacher or an instructor who has not yet achieved HQT status.

There are 120 teacher aides who are working toward their college degrees and who plan to take the Praxis test to become certified teachers.

To assist the 156 non-HQTs, PSS has suggested summer classes, which are estimated to cost $500,000 per summer or $1 million in total for the two summer seminars to assists the non-HQTs and teacher aides.

"We project that we will meet the BOE requirement that all teachers will have passed their Praxis exams and are fully state certified by July 31, 2011," the revised grant application stated.

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Lawmaker wants 10 percent bar tax to be scrapped

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The chairman of the House Commerce and Tourism Committee has pre-filed a bill scrapping the 10 percent bar tax, saying the "overtaxed" industry would be able to pay the government more in business gross revenue tax by giving them reprieve in some areas during these tough economic times.

Rep. Joseph Reyes (R-Saipan) said repealing the bar tax law will result in revenue loss for the government but added that the funds not paid in bar taxes would nevertheless be spent on the local economy and likely result in additional taxable income.

"The government will probably have more to gain because establishments will generate more sales and in turn pay more business gross revenue tax," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune.*

Besides bar tax, other taxes and fees paid by business establishments licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on their premises include the beverage container tax, excise tax, business license fee, license fee to sell alcoholic beverages, and business gross tax.

Reyes

"These multiple taxes and fees hinder the economic development of such businesses… These businesses are also critical to our economic recovery and strength," Reyes said in his pre-filed bill.

Public Law 3-11 established a bar tax of 3 percent of the total charges for any beverage sold or consumed at an establishment licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises of the establishment.

In 1995, Public Law 9-22 increased the bar tax from 3 percent to 10 percent and further provided that after three years have passed from the effective date of the law, the tax shall be in the amount of 6 percent.

But in 1998, Public Law 11-25 was enacted that further amended the bar tax to keep it at the rate of 10 percent.

"These tax increases were established to alleviate the financial crisis affecting the Commonwealth government at the time. Although these tax increases benefited the Commonwealth government, they placed additional burden on establishments catering to alcoholic beverage consumers," said Reyes, as he seeks to repeal the bar tax law in its entirety.

Reyes owns the Joe's Bar and Grill on Beach Road.

Earlier, Reyes also pre-filed a bill seeking to exempt from paying personal income tax those earning $25,000 or less annually, saying that reducing taxes is one of the most effective means of helping the economy recover.

House Bill 16-250 exempts those who earn $25,000 or less from paying income tax, while imposing a 6 percent income tax on those earning between $25,001 and $50,000 annually. Those who earn between $50,001 and $100,000 will be taxed an 8 percent income tax, while those earning over $10,001 annually will have an income tax of 10 percent.

Shikogakuen ends 23rd pilgrimage to Saipan

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some 40 members of the Japanese religious group Shikogakuen ended their five-day pilgrimage on Saipan yesterday.

While on island, the group held a memorial service at the Banzai Cliff Park in Marpi to pray for their families and loved ones who died during World War II.

This year marks the 23rd anniversary of Shikogakuen's religious visit to Saipan and Tinian.

It has been only half a year since their last visit in November 2008 with around 150 members for the 20th anniversary of the establishment of their memorial monument at Banzai Cliff.

On Sunday, the group's president, Masakazu Kawakami, led the visiting members in a memorial service in front of the Shikogakuen monument, during which they remembered the war and prayed for world peace.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos sent messages of welcome to the Shokogakuen members.

Members also spent their time in the CNMI enjoying the island. Some visited Tinian while others remained on Saipan to sightsee at various historical and scenic spots. Other activities included an underwater sightseeing tour, a trip to Managaha Island, and a visit to the Saipan Botanical Garden.

The group left yesterday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Shikogakuen members pose for a souvenir picture at the religious group's monument in Banzai Cliff, Marpi last Sunday.

From the bottom of our hearts

To all who have stood by us and spent countless hours helping, encouraging,
and sharing in the often hard work of campaigning, and

To all of you who came out to vote in support of our gubernatorial team,

To our Republican Party challengers, we extend a hand of friendship and unity, and

To the residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a standing invitation to meet us to talk about what actions are necessary to improve the quality of life for all who call the Marianas home.

Thank you for believing in us

Si Yuus Maase. Olomwaay. Maraming Salamat Po.

HEINZ SABLAN HOFSCHNEIDER
and
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CDA sued over Pacific Gardenia mortgage

A company has sued the Commonwealth Development Authority for the foreclosure of a mortgage on real property in Chalan Kanoa.

Dream Rider Inc., through lawyer Douglas Cushnie, filed the foreclosure of realty action against CDA.

Cushnie stated in the complaint that Ronald D. Sablan, Maria Ana T. Sablan, and Jeanette D. Sablan for Sy's Corp., the former owner of the Pacific Gardenia Hotel, executed a note and security agreement on Dec. 23, 1998, in the amount of $30,000 in favor of the Bank of Saipan.

Cushnie said the note and security agreement were secured in part by a real property mortgage, executed by Ronald Sablan for Sy's Corp. on Dec. 23, 1998, covering a lot in Chalan Kanoa.

CDA assumed fee simple title over the lot after a Superior Court judgment in July 2006.

Cushnie said, however, that the mortgage held by Bank of Saipan over the lot is superior to the interests held by CDA.

Cushnie said by assignment of note and mortgages dated Nov. 14, 2008, Bank of Saipan assigned its interest in the note and security agreement and all security interests, including the mortgage, to Dream Rider.

He said there is owing on the note and security agreement a payoff balance of $41,470 as of Nov. 14, 2008. The lawyer said the notice of default was sent to and received by CDA. ***(Ferdie dela Torre)***

MCS to host alumni dinner fundraiser

The officers for school year 2008-2009 of the Mount Carmel School Parent Teacher Organization, in cooperation with Mount Carmel School, will be hosting an MCS Alumni Dinner on July 24, 2009 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

The event aims to raise funds to help the ongoing efforts to refurbish the aging school gymnasium/cafeteria. The event will be from 6pm to 10pm and will host various speakers and slide presentations.

Tickets, which are $50 per person, are now on sale at the Mount Carmel School business office and from MCS PTO board officers, which include Velma Palacios (president), Carlyn Hofschneider (vice president), Maria-Zita Sablan (secretary), and John Blanco (treasurer). All check and money order payments should be made payable to Mount Carmel School.

The MCS community is encouraging all past and present students, faculty, staff, and the community at large, to come out and attend the event. They also are encouraging those wanting to donate to this endeavor to contact the MCS PTO Board Officers at e-mail address mcsptoboard@yahoo.com, or call the MCS business office and leave your contact information. ***(PR)***

NMC English placement test schedule

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting English placement tests for Summer Session II and the Fall 2009 semester:

■ July 2	1pm - 4pm	D-1
■ Aug. 3	1pm - 4pm	D-1
■ Aug. 5	5pm - 8pm	D-1
■ August 6	1pm - 4pm	D-1
■ Aug. 13	5pm - 8pm	D-1
■ Aug. 14	9am - 12pm	D-1
■ Aug. 21	9am - 12pm	A-5

Registration for Summer Session IIa (July 6 – Aug. 14) will continue until July 2. Registration for the Fall 2009 semester will begin on Aug. 17 and end on Aug. 21. New students are required to take the English placement test before registering for classes.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

There is a $25 fee each for the English placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (M-F, 9am - 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions about the English placement test, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Department at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 2017 or Mona Camacho at Ext. 1242. For additional information, log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

USCG's Apra Harbor has new chief

GUAM—The U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor held a change of command ceremony on Friday, June 26.

Chief Boatswain's Mate Nicholas M. Pavlik relieved Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate Eric Benafel and assumed command as officer in charge of Station Apra Harbor.

The change of command ceremony is a longstanding tradition, and is the formal process by which a new officer in charge relieves the previous officer in charge of responsibility for a unit. The ceremony offers guests an opportunity to gain appreciation for the military character of the Coast Guard, as well as observe the shift in authority and total responsibility to a new officer in charge.

The position of officer in charge requires great trust and unwavering loyalty from the crew, and the ceremony ensures that all hands recognize the transfer of command and render proper obedience to the new officer in charge.

There are 17 active duty enlisted personnel and 11 reserve enlisted personnel assigned to the station. The station crew maintains and operates four boats: three 25' Defender Class boats and one 21' Rigid Hull Inflatable boat.

As one of the Coast Guard's front-line commands for maritime safety and security, the station is heavily tasked with performing law enforcement, search and rescue, and homeland security operations. ***(USCG)***

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Recycled plastic boat to make Pacific crossing

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The newly-announced skipper of a expedition sailing a boat made out of plastic bottles across the Pacific says it has already become a platform to raise awareness about environmental issues. The Plastiki will sail 12,000 nautical miles across the Pacific Ocean from San Francisco to Sydney in a boat made out of plastic bottles and recycled waste products. The boat's skipper, Jo Royle an accomplished ocean racer, says the ambition is to set sail before Christmas. Currently, the hope is that the boat will sail from San Francisco, stopping in Hawaii, the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and New Caledonia, before berthing in Sydney.

8 swine flu cases confirmed in American Samoa

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—American Samoa Governor Togiola Tulafono is urging local residents not to panic over the 8 confirmed cases of swine flu. The main hospital sent off to Honolulu 42 specimens with 8 coming back positive. Togiola says all are local residents and are in a stable condition. He says health staff are stepping up their public awareness campaign through the media.

Chicken of the Sea repatriates equipment

PAGO PAGO, America Samoa (Samoa News/PIR) – San Diego-based Chicken of the Sea International plans to repatriate to the mainland the equipment from its local operation needed for a new plant, as the two local canneries close next week for maintenance. Gov. Togiola Tulafono on his weekend radio program said that during his visit last week Thursday to COS Samoa Packing, he requested company officials to keep many of the company's assets at the plant to make it easy for anyone else to take over production. When asked for comments, Mike Rose with a public relation firm representing COS told Samoa News that "Chicken of the Sea plans to bring any necessary equipment it needs to Lyons, Georgia."

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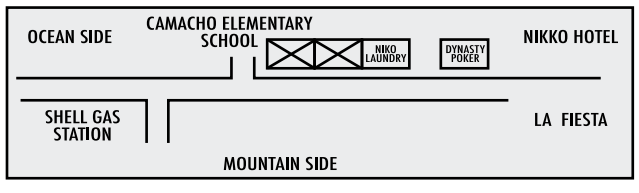

Pls. Contact Emer at Tel. No. 287-0693/233-0234

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 30, 1999

Govt asked to cut workhours

The powerful House Ways and Means Committee is likely to press the administration to further cut the government personnel costs under its proposed spending level for FY 2000 by implementing a reduction in the workhours to meet declining revenues. Committee chair Rep. Karl T. Reyes said this is one area which they will consider in the deliberation of the budget proposal handed in by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio last April. "Maybe it's time now to actually go into the reduction of hours," he told in an interview yesterday, adding the committee may actually highlight the benefits to persuade the administration in taking this step.

Demapan named SC chief justice

As expected, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday nominated Miguel S. Demapan as chief justice of the Supreme Court, ending weeks of speculation on his choice to occupy the post vacant since December after the retirement of former Chief Justice Marty W.K. Taylor. The governor at the same time appointed several people to various government boards, including to the Board of Public Lands, but left open the seat of its former chair Tomas B. Aldan whose two-year term expired last June 4. There has been report that Tenorio is weighing heavily the re-appointment of the outspoken bank executive, but he apparently wants to be assured that the Senate would back Aldan's nomination, just what like it did to Demapan.

June 30, 2000

Teno assures no tax hikes

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio pledged yesterday before tourism leaders not to raise taxes and impose new fees at this time when the economy is still reeling from the impact of the Asian recession that has pulled down visitor arrivals to the CNMI. He also sought support of the business community in improving the delivery of public services and in wooing foreign investments into the Commonwealth, saying that the government is dependent on revenues it generates from the sector. "This is not the right time to increase tax. We are fortunate that we are getting revenues at this time," the governor told the annual general membership meeting of the Marianas Visitors Authority held at the Diamond Hotel.

Asiana plans to add 7 flights a week in 2001

The Northern Marianas is beginning to witness the comeback of its second largest tourism market almost three years after they started coming in trickles, as manifested by serious plans of a major Korean carrier to double the frequency of its flight services between Seoul and Saipan next year. Asiana Airlines Saipan Station Manager Hong Seong Min disclosed the carrier is now considering the deployment of two flights a day in the year 2001 or a total of 14 regular flight schedules per week. Asiana Airlines' proposed aircraft deployment schedule for next year is double its current frequency of one flight each day between the Korean capital of Seoul and Saipan.

June 30, 2003

'CDA, prison task force misled govt over funding'

Both the Saipan Prison Task Force and the Commonwealth Development Authority reportedly misled the Babauta administration that there was full funding available for the $17.29-million Saipan prison project, when in fact the money on hand was only a fraction of the entire amount. This was stressed by Gov. Juan N. Babauta Friday, explaining that funding problems continue to dog the prison facility project because, when they signed the contract, his administration was told that the total $17.29 million was available. Babauta told reporters that before his administration assumed office in January 2002, the 12th Legislature passed an authorizing law that said that the project was going to have complete funding through the CDA.

Cing says Senate should suspend Dela Cruz

Sen. David M. Cing is insisting that the Senate should suspend Senate vice president Jose Dela Cruz, saying this should have been done when the senator was first indicted on multiple wire fraud charges in 2002. Cing was reacting to an earlier statement by Senate Floor Leader Joaquin G. Adriano, who had argued that Dela Cruz should be allowed to vote on Attorney General nominee Pamela Brown since he was also allowed to vote during the confirmation of CNMI Superior Court presiding judge Robert Naraja. Cing pointed out that this was exactly the point he had raised during Naraja's confirmation.

Island Snapshots

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Board of Education member Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero, standing center, poses with supporters in front of Garapan Elementary School during the Republican gubernatorial primary on Saturday. Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider and running mate House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios bagged 53 percent of the 6,368 votes cast over the Babauta-Deleon Guerrero tandem.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Supporters of former Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Board of Education Galvin Deleon Guerrero pose for a group photo in front of San Vicente Elementary School during the Republican gubernatorial primary on Saturday. The Babauta-Deleon Guerrero tandem lost to the team of Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider and running mate House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios by 396 votes.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Republican Party members and officers manually count 6,368 votes in a little over an hour during the party's gubernatorial primary on Saturday night at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider casts his ballot at Garapan Elementary School shortly before the close of polls in the Republican gubernatorial primary on Saturday. Hofschneider and running mate House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios won by 396 votes over the tandem of former Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Board of Education Galvin Deleon Guerrero, who vowed to support the winning team in the November gubernatorial elections.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider poses with supporters shortly before delivering a victory speech in As Lito on Saturday night.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Joven Torres Reyes, who is celebrating his 6th birthday today, June 30, 2009. "You are so special and your great smiles and laughter have brought happiness and joy to our lives. God bless you on your special day. We love you so much." Greetings come from your families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Former Gov. Juan N. Babauta, right, addresses the crowd as he and running mate Board of Education member Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero, left, vow support to the winning team of Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider, center, and running mate House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios after the Heinz-Arnold tandem won by 396 votes during the Republican gubernatorial primary on Saturday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider and running mate House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios celebrate with their young supporters after the Heinz-Arnold tandem won 53 percent of the 6,368 votes cast over former Gov. Juan N. Babauta and his running mate Board of Education member Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero during Saturday's Republican gubernatorial primary.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Former Gov. Juan N. Babauta, back, and his wife Charlene get a visit from Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider, right, after Hofschneider and running mate Speaker Arnold I. Palacios won the Republican primary on Saturday.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The debt tsunami

The Congressional Budget Office has a tough job: to provide America's lawmakers with a reality check on their tax and spending plans. Not surprisingly, the CBO's projections are not always received cheerfully. Both President Obama and leading congressional Democrats were less than thrilled when the CBO estimated that the costs of universal health coverage would be much higher than advertised. To be sure, projecting the cost of legislation involves making assumptions and constructing models that may or may not prove accurate 10 years down the road. Nonetheless, the CBO, with its tradition of scholarly independence, is the best available arbiter, and Congress must heed its numbers—like them or not.

Now comes the CBO with yet more news of the sort that neither Capitol Hill nor the White House is likely to welcome: its freshly released report on the federal government's long-term financial situation. To put it bluntly, the fiscal policy of the United States is unsustainable. Debt is growing faster than gross domestic product. Under the CBO's most realistic scenario, the publicly held debt of the U.S. government will reach 82 percent of GDP by 2019—roughly double what it was in 2008. By 2026, spiraling interest payments would push the debt above its all-time peak (set just after World War II) of 113 percent of GDP. It would reach 200 percent of GDP in 2038.

This huge mass of debt, which would stifle economic growth and reduce the American standard of living, can be avoided only through spending cuts, tax increases or some combination of the two. And the longer government waits to get its financial house in order, the more it will cost to do so, the CBO says.

The CBO's new long-term forecast is considerably more pessimistic than the one it issued 18 months ago, mostly because of the recession, which has driven the budget deficit above 12 percent of GDP. But the report makes clear that the recent economic downturn did not cause the government's predicament and that the situation will not necessarily improve once the economy does. The principal cause of long-term fiscal distress is the aging of the U.S. population, coupled with rising health-care costs—which, together, will drive spending on Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security to new heights. Unchecked, federal spending on Medicare and Medicaid combined will grow from almost 5 percent of GDP today to almost 10 percent by 2035—and to more than 17 percent of GDP by 2080.

Like his predecessors, Mr. Obama is aware of this issue. Like them, he has promised a plan to deal with it. And like them, he has not come up with anything credible yet. It's time for that to change.

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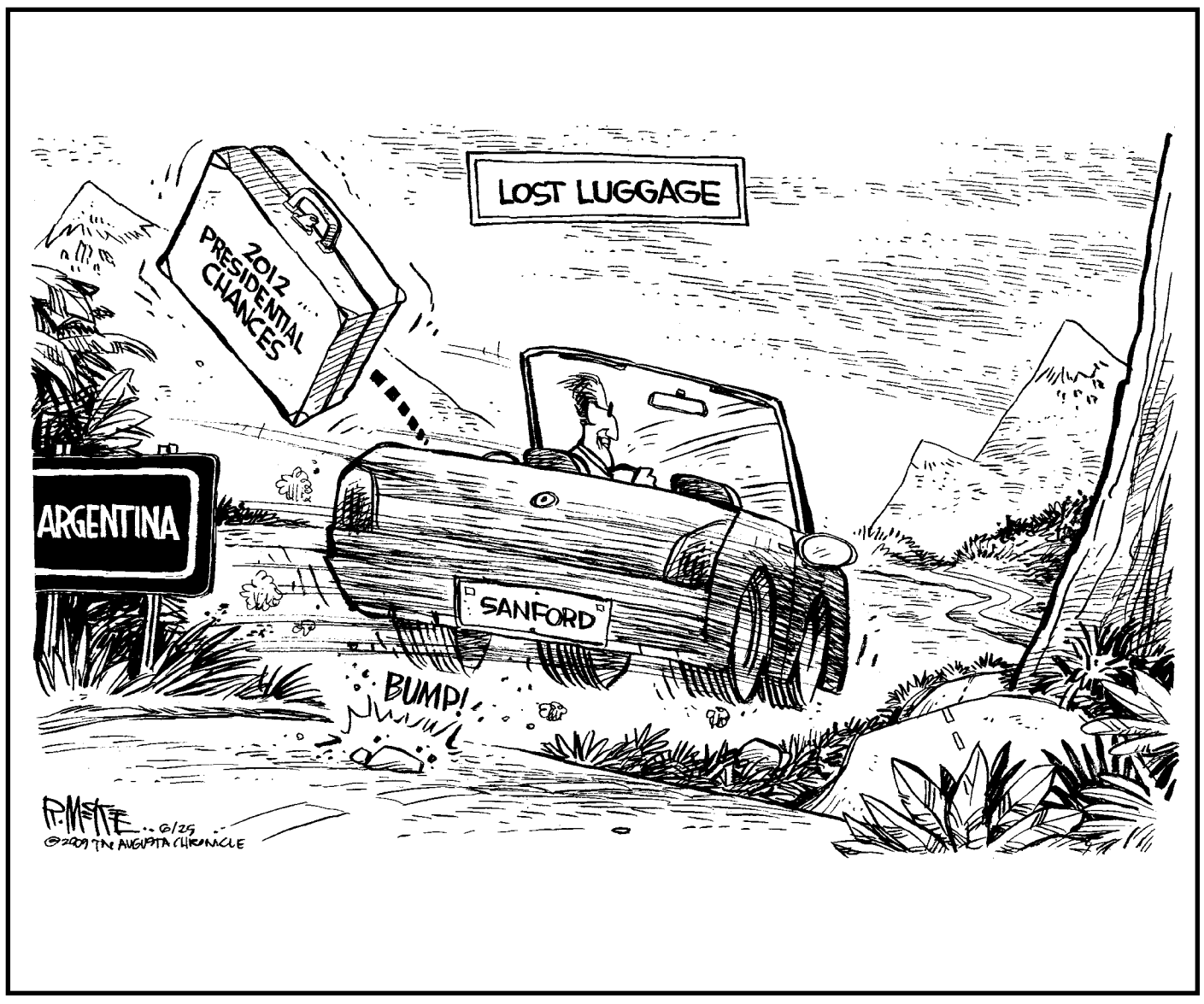

Do not forget Burma

By LAURA BUSH
Special to The Washington Post

The writer is the former first lady of the United States.

For two weeks, the world has been transfixed by images of Iranians taking to the streets to demand the most basic human freedoms and rights. Watching these courageous men and women, I am reminded of a similar scene nearly two years ago in Burma, when tens of thousands of Buddhist monks peacefully marched through their nation's streets. They, too, sought to reclaim basic human dignity for all Burmese citizens, but they were beaten back by that nation's harsh regime.

Since those brutal days in September 2007, Burma's suffering has intensified. In the past 21 months, the number of political prisoners incarcerated by the junta has doubled. Within the past 10 days, two Burmese citizens were sentenced to 18 months in prison. Their offense: praying in a Buddhist pagoda for the release of the jailed opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. That is only the tip of the regime's brutality. Inside Burma, more than 3,000 villages have been "forcibly displaced"—a number exceeding the mass relocations in genocide-racked Darfur. The military junta has forced tens of thousands of child soldiers into its army and routinely uses civilians as mine-sweepers and slave laborers. It has closed churches and mosques; it has imprisoned comedians for joking about the government and bloggers for writing about it. Human trafficking, where women and children are snatched and sold, is pervasive. Summary executions pass for justice, while lawyers are arrested for the "crime" of defending the persecuted.

Rape is routinely used as a "weapon of war." In 2006, I convened a roundtable at the United Nations to address the situation in Burma and listened as Burmese activist Hseng Noung described the rape victims she had aided. The youngest victim was 8; the oldest was 80. Her words silenced the room.

Yet time and again, the women of Burma, who are often the regime's chief targets, have responded to this brutality with inspiring courage. I will never forget visiting the remote and crowded refugee camps on the mountainous border between Burma and Thailand. There, I watched the tireless efforts of Dr. Cynthia Maung to provide lifesaving medical aid for hundreds of Burmese in need, many of them ill or injured. I sat with victims of land mines who had lost legs or feet and were waiting quietly, often for hours, for basic care. Last fall, it was my great privilege to present a Vital Voices award to Charm Tong, who testified before U.N. officials at the age of 17 and eloquently described the systematic military campaign of rape and abuse that is being waged against women in Burma's Shan state. She spoke unflinchingly even though her audience included representatives of the very regime she condemned.

More of us in America should make such courage our courage. At this moment, Aung San Suu Kyi, 64 and in fragile health, faces sentencing on trumped-up charges that could force her to endure five more years of brutal captivity. The junta leaders wish to undermine the Nobel Peace laureate's influence ahead of next year's elections. Leaders from around the world—including the United States—have called forcefully for the junta to release Aung San Suu Kyi and the 2,100 other political prisoners it is holding. Even Burma's closest allies in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have called for her to receive proper medical care and have warned that Burma's "honor and credibility" are at stake. But the world must do more than express concern.

A new report from Harvard Law School asks the U.N. Security Council to establish a "commission of inquiry" into crimes against humanity and war crimes in Burma. Harvard's panel of international law experts has carefully catalogued what it deems as the junta's "widespread and systemic" human rights violations. The Security Council has already referred the crisis in Darfur to the International Criminal Court. It should do the same for Burma.

With U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon planning to visit Burma this summer, it is crucial that he press the regime to take immediate steps to end human rights abuses, particularly in ethnic minority areas. There have been 38 U.N. resolutions condemning these abuses, yet the horrors continue unabated. Under the junta's brutal rule, too many lives have been wasted, lives whose talents could have helped all of Burma prosper.

But Aung San Suu Kyi's continued example of civil courage—like those brave protesters in Iran—reminds all of us that no matter how callous the regime, it cannot lock up what she stands for: the fundamental desire of all people to live in freedom and with dignity. During the brief moments that foreign diplomats were allowed to observe her show trial, Aung San Suu Kyi calmly apologized for having to greet them in a prison, saying, "I hope to meet you in better times." We should all share her hope—and add our voices to those who risk so much to protest tyranny and injustice in Burma and beyond.

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Judgment calls from the glass houses

By COLBERT I. KING
Special to The Washington Post

Have you noticed the overtone of glee in some of the media commentary about South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford's confession of an extramarital affair with a woman in Argentina? The merriment is unbecoming, and it is based on a virtue that many of the gleeful themselves don't possess.

Sanford, to be sure, probably brought the house down on himself with his holier-than-thou stances on the behavior of others, most notably that of Bill Clinton and Republican House Speaker-designate Bob Livingston.

In Clinton's case, then-GOP House member Sanford called for the Democratic president's resignation and voted for his impeachment, pointing to the need to restore "moral legitimacy."

Sanford also came down hard on Livingston, who was forced to step down after Hustler magazine publisher Larry Flynt nearly outed him as an adulterer in 1998.

"The bottom line," intoned Sanford, "is that Livingston lied. He lied to his wife."

"We as a party," Sanford told the Associated Press then, "want to hold ourselves to high standards, period." Talk about setting yourself up.

Until this past week, Sanford was riding high with folks on the right as one of the sharpest critics of President Obama's stimulus package. He was a go-to guy for Fox News. So it should come as no surprise that his fooling around in Argentina and his convoluted misrepresentations have brought on tons of ridicule from the left.

Still, there is something unseemly about having fun over another person's failings.

Some of the same yukking it up was heard a week ago when GOP Sen. John Ensign of Nevada disclosed his affair with the wife of a former staffer. Before that, the media had a ball with the news that the prostitution-fighting New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer had a thing for high-priced call girls.

Media laughter went on for weeks over former Idaho Republican Sen. Larry Craig's encounter with an undercover cop in a Minneapolis airport restroom.

And the list goes on: Louisiana GOP Sen. David Vitter's dalliance with a lady of the evening; former New Jersey Democratic Gov. Jim McGreevey's disclosure of an extramarital relationship with a man; John Edwards' affair with a campaign aide. A good time was had by scribes and talking heads paid to write and yak about such goings-on.

Oh, I'm familiar with the arguments for giving attention to dalliances by prominent politicians: that the politicians betray the public's trust when they indulge in scandalous behavior; that if they break marriage vows, they may also break laws they swear to uphold; that when they don't live up to the high standards they profess to hold, they fall short of the role models they should be.

Motives are identified with equal certainty.

Since Sanford's Wednesday news conference, the airwaves have been filled with journalists, psychiatrists and pundits feverishly tackling—with furrowed brows—the weighty question: "What makes politicians cheat?"

Narcissism. Thrill of the hunt. Desire to show power. Selfishness. A sense of omnipotence.

All of the above and more, say the writers, shrinks and pontificators—as if the plunge into peccadilloes is prompted by a politician's penchant for taking foolish risks.

Allow a slightly different take on this.

First, singling out hypocrites is fair game. A number of the politicians involved in extramarital affairs have been among the loudest champions of "family values" and the most vocal critics of men and women in monogamous same-sex relationships. Hypocrisy deserves no cover, be the hypocrite a politician, preacher or self-proclaimed protector of public morals.

But isn't it time that we get our noses out of the private behavior of public officials who don't go around moralizing about other people's private conduct or messing around with the public purse, who are breaking no laws or laws that are rarely prosecuted?

If, as some biblical translations suggest, sin means "to miss the mark," a whole host of folks beyond the public arena must join the sinners' ranks, including large swaths of the media, preachers and special-interest groups devoted to passing judgment on other people's morality.

How about giving it a rest?

In a few days, my wife, Gwen, and I will celebrate 48 years of marriage. I look with awe upon couples who describe their long stretches of marriage as times of untrammeled bliss: I look with awe, not envy.

As a couple, some of our best moments have come about through discovery of self and each other brought on by clashes of near-titanic proportions.

You don't reach nearly 50 years of marriage—at least not in wedlock with yours truly—without learning a thing or two about human frailty, love and the power of forgiveness.

My idea, for what it's worth, is that when someone—well- or little-known—stumbles in marriage, the best thing the rest of us can do, media included, is to back off and give that couple a little space to work it out since they, most likely, are the only two people who know it all.

One thing's for sure—we don't.

The prescience of protest

By NATAN SHARANSKY
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Sharansky spent nine years in the Soviet gulag. He is chairman of the Adelson Institute for Strategic Studies of the Shalem Center in Jerusalem.

Once again, the world is amazed. As with the seemingly sudden appearance of the Solidarity movement in Poland in the 1980s, or the gaudy, grand-scale collapse of the Soviet empire at the end of that decade, the massive revolt of Iranian citizens has elicited the unmitigated surprise of the free world's army of experts, pundits and commentators. Who would have known? Who could have predicted this eruption of protest in a system so highly repressed, where a generally quiescent populace lives under such a deeply entrenched revolutionary regime?

And yet, just as in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, there were people in Iran who did know all along, who foresaw and even foretold today's events. These were Iran's democratic dissidents, some at home, some in exile, some having served long sentences in Iranian prisons or on their way to those prisons right now.

At various Western conferences and forums in recent years, some of these dissidents even succeeded in gaining the ear of leaders of the free world. They were greeted with sincere expressions of sympathy and support—but also with silent skepticism. Surely their assessments of the Iranian situation were unreliable at best. Heroic they undoubtedly were, but objective? After all, they lacked access to classified information, to satellite photography and the other tools of modern intelligence-gathering. They could not see the whole picture.

Now it turns out that, like their predecessors in the Soviet Union, they were right.

How is it that dissidents rotting in the gulag were able to predict, many years earlier, not only when but how the Soviet Union would collapse—something that escaped all the world's scholars and intelligence agencies alike? Andrei Amalrik's book, "Will the Soviet Union Survive Until 1984?," published underground in 1969, is only one of many examples of such predictions. How did the experts miss it? The reason is simple.

Every totalitarian society consists of three groups: true believers, double-thinkers and dissidents. In every totalitarian regime, no matter its cultural or geographical circumstances, the majority undergo a conversion over time from true belief in the revolutionary message into double-thinking. They no longer believe in the regime but are too scared to say so. Then there are the dissidents—pioneers who dare to cross the line between double-thinking and everything that lies on the other side. In doing so, they first internalize, then articulate and finally act on the innermost feelings of the nation.

People in free societies watching massive military parades or vociferous displays of love for the leaders of totalitarian regimes often conclude, "Well, that's their mentality; there's nothing we can do about it." Thus they and their leaders miss what is readily grasped by local dissidents attuned to what is happening on the ground: the spectacle of a nation of double-thinkers slowly or rapidly approaching a condition of open dissent.

To see the telltale signs, sometimes it helps to have experienced totalitarianism firsthand. More than once in recent years, former Soviet citizens returning from a visit to Iran have told me how much Iranian society reminded them of the final stages of Soviet communism. Their testimony was what persuaded me to write almost five years ago that Iran was extraordinary for the speed with which, in the span of a single generation, a citizenry had made the transition from true belief in the revolutionary promise into disaffection and double-thinking. Could dissent be far behind?

This suggests another notable fact about present-day Iran. In Moscow in the 1970s, demonstrations organized by dissidents in an effort to attract the world's attention would often consist of no more than five to 10 individuals. Otherwise, the KGB would find out about the demonstrations in advance. They would last no more than five minutes. That was the longest we could last before the KGB would come, arrest us and ship the less fortunate to Siberia. Our main objective was to make certain that at least one foreign journalist was present so that, the next day, at least one Western news source would come out with a story that could in turn elicit a chain reaction of more and greater press attention and, we hoped, a vocal Western response.

This week, there were hundreds of thousands of people on the streets of Tehran, with the entire world following them in real time. My assistant, sitting in Jerusalem, received daily updates on Facebook from two dozen Iranian friends before they set out to demonstrate and again on their return. One can only hope that, in the White House and at 10 Downing Street, the leaders of the free world are as well connected as my assistant.

But will those leaders act? With all their sympathy for peoples striving for freedom, Western governments are fearful of imperiling actual or hoped-for relations with the world's ayatollahs, generals, general secretaries and other types of dictators—partners, so it is thought, in maintaining political stability. But this is a fallacy. Democracy's allies in the struggle for peace and security are the demonstrators in the streets of Tehran who, with consummate bravery, have crossed the line between the world of double-think and the world of free men and women.

Listen to them, and you will hear nothing more, and nothing less, than what you yourself know to be the true hope of every human being on Earth. Listen to them and you may be amazed, but you will never again be surprised.

I'd love to play rugby, but I hurt myself sneezing

By JIM SHEA
(C) 2009, THE HARTFORD COURANT

Baby boomers and football players have something in common:

Pain.

If you can't play in pain, you can't be a member of either team.

I don't know about anyone else, but I am getting to the point where I have at least one thing bothering me at all times.

Feeling my pain?

Have you gotten to where if there isn't something wrong with you when you wake you feel like something's wrong with you?

Join the club.

I wish I could say my injuries were the result of manly man pursuits such as mountain climbing or rugby or drinking a lot of beer.

I can't.

Which is not to say I don't have manly man injuries.

For example, last year I had a rotator-cuff problem. Major-league pitchers and NFL quarterbacks have rotator-cuff problems.

Unfortunately, the similarity ends there.

While the pros' injuries stem from athletic competition at the highest level, I hurt my rotator cuff at what you might call athletic competition at the lowest level ... sleeping.

I'm not kidding. I slept on my shoulder the wrong way one night and woke up unable to lift my arm over my head. I'm out of pain now, but it took six months. And I have totally lost the giddyap on my 35-mph fastball.

I also tore cartilage in my knee walking in the snow. I've skied my entire life without incident but can't negotiate a Black Diamond driveway.

Oh, and check this one out: I once developed tendinitis in my thumb trying to watch too many things on television at the same time.

Additionally, I have been injured sneezing, grocery shopping, lawn mowing and getting up to go to the bathroom in the middle of the night.

Now, I don't know about women, but if you are a man, there is no way you can explain how a typical baby boomer injury occurred and still retain a modicum of self-respect.

Seriously, you're going to tell the guys that you pulled a hamstring taking out the garbage? I don't think so.

It's more likely you're going to say it happened during an ultimate fighting match, or surfing Hawaii's North Shore or engaging in tantric sex.

When you get to be a baby boomer, even the truth hurts.

Shea is a columnist for The Courant.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84	▼75
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼81
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼79

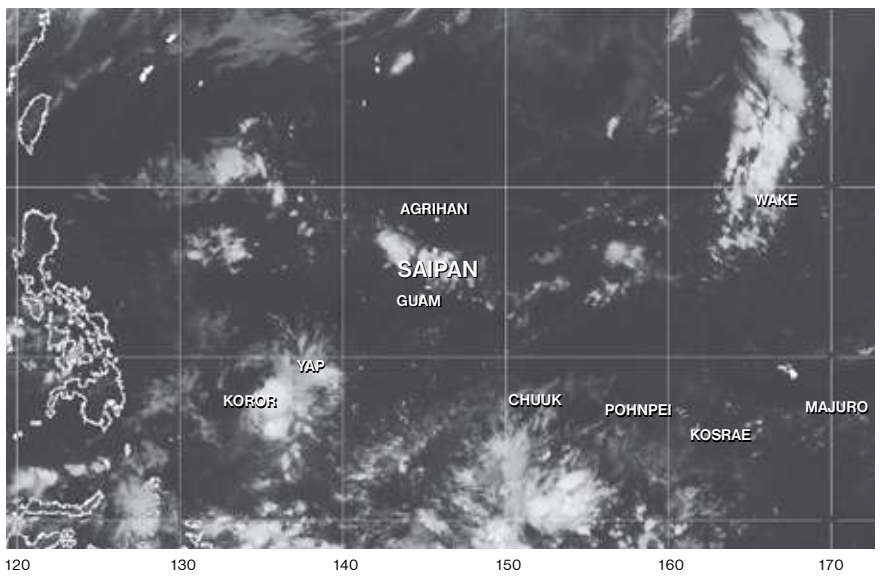
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲55	▼46
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲95	▼72
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90	▼81
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼73
London	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼63
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲81	▼64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲65	▼52
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
New York	Thundershowers	▲80	▼65
Osaka	Rain	▲84	▼72
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼67
Pusan	Rain	▲82	▼68
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼67
Salem	Sunny	▲80	▼47
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲74	▼55
Seoul	Cloudy	▲86	▼64
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲84	▼71
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲84	▼65

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:29 AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
8:32 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
2:32 PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:51 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trough extends southward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N163E to become a shear line at 16N163 and continues westward to 14N163E then northwestward through Tinian and Saipan to end at 21N133E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located in low-level convergence east of the trough including Wake Island between 16N and 25N from 163E to 168E and within 90 miles of the shearline west of 148E including Tinian and Saipan. An upper-level low centered at 13N137E is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of the low just east of Palau between 5N and 9N from 134E to 138E and between 9N and 10N from 138E to 139E including Yap. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Chuuk between the equator and 4N from 150E to 155E further east. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms can be found east and southeast of Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 4N177E to beyond 7N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:49 PM	12:03 AM
Wednesday	1:41 PM	12:42 AM
Thursday	2:34 PM	1:23 AM
Friday	3:27 PM	2:07 AM
Saturday	4:21 PM	2:53 AM

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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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- Whole Chicken LIMIT 1 CASE $33.99
- Young Spare Ribs 10 LBS. $13.99
- Pork Spareribs BBQ Adobo Cut 20 LBS. $14.99
- Beef Spare Ribs 20 LBS. $19.99
- Pork Riblets 10 LBS. $11.99
- Mackerel PACIFIC 22.4 LBS. $20.99 / PIKE 22.07 LBS. $23.99
- Chorizos 4 lbs. 64 oz. $24.99
- SEOK SU Dynamic Fresh 500ml. x 20 $5.99
- Jasmine Lotus Rice 50 LBS. (LIMIT 1 SACK) $24.99
- Diamond G Calrose Rice 50 LBS. (LIMIT 2) $34.99
- Ichiban Limit 1 CASE $7.99
- Turkey Tail 20 lbs. $16.99

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- Miller Sausage 5 lbs. $14.95
- Chamorro Sausage Reg/Hot 1 lb. $4.49
- Bar-S Bacon 1 lb. $2.49
- Bar-S Hotdog 1 lb. $1.09
- Bonita Crabmeat Imitation 16 oz. $1.99
- Ground Beef 5 LBS. $9.99 / 10 LBS. $16.99
- Bar-S Ham 10 lbs. $16.99
- Mackarel Family Bag $5.99
- Peeled Shrimp SC Brand 1 lb. $2.99
- Seafood Mix Log Feng Brand 1 lb. $2.59
- Blue Crab Section Per Box $8.95
- Vega Shrimp 1 lb. $4.99
- Imperial Choice Green Mussels 2 lbs. $4.99
- Chicken Wings 5.5 lbs. $9.99 /PACK
- Milk Fish $1.39
- Tilapia $.99¢
- U.S. Extra Large Eggs Dozen $1.79
- Onion 79¢ /LB
- Garlic per bundle 89¢

- Spam 12 oz. LIMIT 12 GARLIC & REGULAR ONLY $1.99
- Black Label Luncheon Meat 12 oz. $1.39
- Libby's Vienna Sausage 5 oz. 69¢
- Beach Cliff Sardines 3.75 oz. 89¢
- Ox & Palm Corned Beef 11.5 oz. LIMIT 6 $2.29
- Hormel Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash 15 oz. $1.99
- Hormel Chili No Beans 15 oz. 2 FOR $3.00
- DM Beef Stew 15 oz. 2 FOR $3.00
- Master A1 Tuna 7 oz. Limit 6 99¢
- 3 Diamond Tuna $1.19
- Sun Flower Mackarel 15 oz. $1.59
- Campbells Chicken Noodle Soup 10.7 oz. 99¢
- Cream of Mushroom 10 3/4 oz. 99¢
- Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn 89¢
- Carnation Evaporated Milk 12 oz. $1.19
- Crisco All Vegetable Shortening 3 lbs. $4.99
- Dragon Veg. Oil 1 Gal. $6.99
- Vegetable Oil 5 Gal. LIMIT 1 $24.99
- Garden Fresco Vegetable Oil 1 Gal. $6.99
- Golden State Vinegar 1 Gal. $3.19
- Crisco Pure Corn 64 oz. $7.99
- Vlasic Dill Pickles (Spears) 1 Gal. $5.99
- Kikkoman 1.6 L. $3.99
- Lemon Powder 5.29 oz. $4.99
- Gold Medal Flour 5 lbs. Limit 4 pcs. $2.99
- Maseca 4.4 lbs. Limit 1 pc. $4.99
- Coco Mackerel 15 oz. $1.29
- Sugar 2 kg. $1.49
- Morton Iodized Salt 26 oz. 69¢
- Folgers Classic Roast 39 oz. $10.99
- Coffee-Mate Creamer 50 oz. $7.99
- Moist Deluxe Except Yellow Classic Cake 18.25 oz. 2 FOR $3.00
- Kraft Cool Whip 8 OZ. $1.99 / 16 OZ. $3.50
- Philadelphia Original Creame Cheese $2.59
- Albers Yellow Corn Meal 1 lb. $1.99
- Argo Corn Starch $1.09
- Nissin Cup Noodles 12 pcs. $5.95
- Nestea Iced Tea 36 qts. $7.99
- Tang 22 qts. $5.99
- Kool-Aid 32 oz. $7.99
- Sunkist 1 Case Warm Only $5.99
- Whole Chicken Can 50 oz. $5.99
- Real Fresh Milk (Regular only) $20.99 CASE / 236 ml. $16.99
- Enfamil 25.7 $26.99
- Coke Regular 24/Case Warm Only $12.99
- Shasta Drinks 112oz All Flavor (warm only) $12.99
- Pepsi Regular Warm Only $16.99 /CASE
- Budweiser/Budlight 24/Case Warm Only 3 days only (6/30 - 7/2) $25.99

- Korean Butane Gas LIMIT 1 Case 3 days only (4/30 - 5/2) $19.99 /CASE
- Foam Cups 51 cnts. $1.99
- Bounty Basic 15 ROLLS $15.99 / 8 ROLLS $8.99
- Bounty 15 Rolls $19.99
- Foam Plates 125 ct. $6.99
- RAID 17.5 oz. (red color only) was $5.99 NOW $4.99
- Spoon & Fork No Brand Name 100 cnts. $1.29
- Horse Shampoo 1 qrt. 2 FOR $3.00
- Bottled White Candle 12 pcs/case $13.99 /CASE
- Drypers (All Size) Mega Pack $14.99
- Luvs Big Pack (All Size) $19.99
- Cottonelle Single 24 rolls Tissue $8.99
- Diamond Foil 200 Sq. Ft. $5.99

FAMILY BAG SPECIAL

BEEF SHANK	$10.95	BEEF BACK RIBS	$7.95
FLANK STEAK	$16.95	BEEF OXTAIL	$16.95
PORK ADOBO	$10.95	BEEF STEW	$12.95
PORK CHOP	$11.95	RIBEYE STEAK	$17.95
PORK BELLY	$11.95	BEEF TOP ROUND STEAK	$14.95
STEWING CHICKEN	$6.95	SMOKED HAM STEAK	$12.95
TURKEY TAIL (FAMILY BAG)	$4.99	PORK BUTT	$10.95
U.S. CHOICE BEEF SHORTRIBS	$13.99		

NON-FOOD

SOFT 'N GENTLE (12 ROLLS)	$4.99
CHARMIN (24 ROLLS)	$8.99
GAIN POWDER (120 LOADS)	$19.95
GAIN LIQUID (300 OZ.)	$16.95
JOY ULTRA LEMON DISHWASHING LIQUID (90 OZ.)	$6.99
SUAVE SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER (15 OZ.)	2 FOR $3.00
PLATINUM NAPKIN (360 CTS)	$3.99

Business

Continental to celebrate 75th year

Takes delivery of commemorative aircraft

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Continental Airlines will commemorate its 75th anniversary on July 15, 2009.

HOUSTON—Continental Airlines last week announced that it is taking delivery this week of another new Boeing 737-900ER, which is painted with a retro livery to commemorate the airline's 75th anniversary on July 15, 2009.

The new aircraft's retro livery, which was originally used on aircraft beginning in 1947 and is called The Blue Skyway, was selected by Continental employees. Continental will fly the new aircraft to its three hubs for anniversary celebration events for employees and retirees. The aircraft will make an appearance at Houston Bush Intercontinental on Thursday, June 25, and at New York/Newark Liberty and Cleveland Hopkins on Friday, June 26.

"I am proud to celebrate this exciting occasion with the Continental team, including both our current 43,000 coworkers, as well as the many retired coworkers who paved Continental's history and made the airline what it is today," said Larry Kellner, Continental's chairman and chief executive officer. "Not many 75-year-olds believe their future will be longer and more vibrant than their history, but that's exactly what we're looking forward to at Continental."

The early years

Continental traces its history to Varney Speed Lines, started in 1934 by Walter T. Varney primarily to carry U.S. mail. On July 15, 1934, the airline launched its first flight, carrying 100 letters and no passengers between Pueblo, Colo. and El Paso, Texas. At the time, Franklin Roosevelt was president, the average U.S. annual income was about $1,600, a new car cost $625 and a gallon of gas cost 10 cents.

Walter Varney focused on the new airline's fleet, called Continental "America's Fastest" due to its speedier aircraft. A focus on a strong fleet is one thing that hasn't changed over the last 75 years: Continental today flies the newest, most fuel-efficient jet fleet of all the major U.S. network carriers.

Varney earlier started a different airline, which became United Airlines. Later this year, the two carriers founded by Walter Varney plan to make an historic reunion by joining together as alliance partners in Star Alliance.

Longtime leader: Bob Six

Varney Speed Lines became Continental Airlines in 1937 under the leadership of the legendary Robert F. Six, who captained the airline into the "jet age" and expanded its reach for more than 40 years.

Bob Six laid the groundwork for Continental's reputation for top-notch service and a customer focus.

In 1944, passenger revenue exceeded revenue from carrying mail for the first time in the airline's history. Under Six's leadership, Continental in the late 1940s became one of the first carriers to experiment with coach fares, and established first-class "Gold Carpet Service" in the late 1950s.

"One thing that's never changed goes back to Robert Six—we still want to give customers the best experience from the time they board the plane until they get to their destination," says Houston-based Administrator of Manuals and Publications Jo Strauss, who has been with the company since 1968.

Bob Six also secured a Continental stronghold in the pacific by creating Air Micronesia, which remains a wholly-owned Continental subsidiary today.

Times of tumult

In the late 1970s, following the Airline Deregulation Act, through the early 1990s, Continental went through some of its darkest days, struggling through years of financial losses, a gaggle of challenging mergers and acquisitions, and two bankruptcies, as well as labor relations that strained to the breaking point. Even through these grim times, several bright spots emerged: in 1987, Continental established its OnePass frequent flyer program, and in 1992, the airline launched its premium product, BusinessFirst, which provides first-class service at business-class fares.

In addition, Continental's current domestic hubs were formed during this period. In the late 70s and early 80s, following deregulation, Continental's presence in Houston, which began with the airline's first flight into the city in 1951, strengthened into a true hub. In February 1987, Continental's merger with People Express provided the foundation for the carrier to grow and develop a leading presence in the strategic New York market, transforming Newark Liberty into one of the world's premier international global gateways. Continental remains the largest carrier in the New York area today. In July 1987, Continental's Cleveland hub opened, tripling the airline's presence in the city.

From worst to first

Then, in 1994, Gordon Bethune became CEO and led the company through one of the most dramatic turnarounds in business history, taking it from "worst to first."

Much as Six set the tone on customer satisfaction, Bethune brought to the forefront a culture of employees working together. Bethune and Continental's senior management team also instituted the Go Forward Plan to make sure the whole team had their eyes on the same target. The same working-together culture and Go Forward Plan continue to underlie Continental's success even today. ***(PR)***

Madoff sentencing nears, but victims' pain goes on

NEW YORK (AP)—Bernard Madoff will get one last creature comfort before he is sentenced Monday, probably to serve out the rest of his days in prison. The judge has given him permission to don his own clothes for the hearing, rather than a jail uniform.

Jack Cutter is wearing something special, too, these days: a butcher's smock.

The 80-year-old from Longmont, Colo. had to go back to work after he lost his retirement savings in Madoff's massive swindle. He used to be a petroleum engineer. Now he spends his weekdays toiling in the meat department at a Safeway supermarket. The gig pays $8.64 per hour.

"It's a tough job," he said. "Eight hours on my feet."

But with money tight, he has no choice but to stick it out in the only job he could find. "My slide rule skills were pretty much outmoded," he said.

Madoff's fraud, maybe the biggest in Wall Street history, wiped out thousands of people around the globe. Not all of them were Palm Beach millionaires.

A sizable roster of public school teachers, farmers, mechanics and other middle class folk are also among the victims. Many had been enjoying a comfortable retirement until Madoff's arrest in December. Now, nest eggs gone, they are struggling to pay the bills.

Help isn't on the way anytime soon.

Prosecutors, who have asked a federal judge in Manhattan to sentence Madoff to 150 years, have promised to seize his assets and force him to pay restitution. On Friday, a judge ruled Madoff must forfeit $171 billion in assets, and his wife Ruth was stripped of more than $80 million in net worth she claimed was hers.

Yet, six months after his arrest, prosecutors still don't know exactly how much money he took or what victims might hope to eventually recover. With their financial futures grim, many of the con-man's victims are in no position to take pleasure in his moment of reckoning.

"It's real easy to be very, very angry at Mr. Madoff. He's a complete scam artist," said Cutter. "But my immediate concern is, how long can I continue doing this?"

White House open to new tax on health benefits

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama White House left open the possibility Sunday that the president would break a campaign promise and raise taxes on people earning less than $250,000 to support his health care overhaul agenda.

White House adviser David Axelrod said the administration wouldn't rule out taxing some employees' benefits to fund a health care agenda that has yet to take final form. The move would be a compromise with fellow Democrats, who are pushing the proposal as a way to pay for the massive undertaking without ballooning the federal deficit.

"There are a number of formulations and we'll wait and see. The important thing at this point is to keep the process moving, to keep people at the table, to the keep the discussions going," Axelrod said. "We've gotten a long way down the road and we want to finish that journey."

But if President Barack Obama compromises on that point, it would reverse a campaign tax promise.

"I pledge that under my plan, no one making less than $250,000 a year will see any type of tax increase," Obama told a crowd in Dover, N.H., last year. "Not income tax, not capital gains taxes, not any kind of tax."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil drifts below $69 as traders eye US economy

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices drifted below $69 a barrel Monday in Asia as traders look to macroeconomic indicators this week for signs of improvement in the U.S. economy. Benchmark crude for August delivery slipped 40 cents to $68.76 a barrel by midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Friday, it fell $1.07 to settle at $69.16. Oil prices yo-yoed near $70 a barrel last week as investors mulled mixed signals on whether the U.S. economy, the world's largest, is poised to climb out of its worst recession in decades. Investors will be eyeing economic data this week, including the Labor Department's June unemployment report. The jobless rate hit a 25-year high of 9.4 percent in May, jumping from 8.9 percent the previous month.

Investors await earnings as 2Q comes to a close

NEW YORK (AP)—Markets have replaced big gains with little change. Stocks entered a period of relative calm in recent weeks as a powerful spring rally born of optimism about the economy's revival began to sputter. With the second quarter wrapping up Tuesday and earnings reports looming next month, there appears to be little coming up in this holiday-shortened week that could exert a strong pull on the market one way or another. Earnings reports and profit outlooks are sure to dictate market movements in the coming weeks. Some watchers are already worrying that poor news from those reports, which start rolling out in early July, could weigh down a market that had been buoyed by hopeful signs on the economy. "Over the last couple of weeks, uncertainty has been building in how earnings will play out over the next four weeks," said David Goerz, chief investment officer at San Francisco-based HighMark Capital Management.

Consulting firms Towers Perrin, Watson Wyatt merge

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP)—Management consulting firms Towers, Perrin, Forster & Crosby Inc. and Watson Wyatt Worldwide Inc. said Sunday they will merge to form Towers Watson & Co. in an all-stock deal the companies value at $3.5 billion. The move will create a consultancy with 14,000 employees across more than two dozen countries. Watson Wyatt and Towers Perrin shareholders will each receive 50 percent of the combined company, which is expected to have annual revenue of more than $3 billion. Watson Wyatt CEO John Haley will retain his role at Towers Watson, while Towers Perrin CEO Mark Mactas will serve as president. The deal is expected to close shortly after a shareholder vote in the 2009 fourth quarter.

Nation

Argentine woman admits relationship with SC gov.

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—A 41-year-old Argentine former reporter acknowledged having a relationship with South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford, saying Sunday that widely published e-mail correspondence between the two was obtained from her account without permission.

In a brief statement sent to news network C5n of Buenos Aires, Maria Belen Chapur said she will not talk about her private life, which has already been the focus of intense media scrutiny in the United States and Argentina.

"I have decided to send this statement to clear up certain incorrect things that are being reported and put an end to a matter that, as you imagine, is very painful to me, my two children, my entire family and close friends."

Chapur said someone accessed her Hotmail account without permission late last year and leaked e-mail correspondence that described a relationship with Sanford to the South Carolina newspaper The State.

But she denied the "hacker" is a friend of hers—as has been widely reported here—saying he is as much a victim of the media frenzy as she.

"I have a strong suspicion of who is responsible for this evil act that was directed at me but also destroyed the lives of so many others," Chapur said. "But without sufficient proof, and for legal reasons, I am obligated to not reveal the name.

"It is not for me to judge anyone. I leave it all in the hands of God," she concluded.

The statement was addressed to C5n anchor Eduardo Feinman, who read it on camera. Feinman was Chapur's editor when she worked briefly as a television reporter in 2001.

It was widely reported that Chapur was Sanford's mistress after the governor admitted to the relationship following a secret trip to Argentina earlier this month.

But he did not identify Chapur.

Reporters staked out Chapur's building in an upper-class neighborhood in the Argentine capital for days trying to locate her, and pressed for information from neighbors and the owner of a bar she reportedly visited with Sanford.

People who know Chapur describe her as an elegant, well-mannered, soft-spoken woman who speaks several languages. She is a graduate in political science from the Catholic University of Buenos Aires and the divorced mother of two sons.

AP

In this undated video frame grab, taken from a C5N TV Channel from Argentina report sometime during the Sept. 11, 2001 twin towers attacks in New York, Argentine Maria Belen Chapur speaks during a stand up.

Obama adviser not ready to back a second stimulus

WASHINGTON (AP)—A senior White House adviser said Sunday the economic stimulus has not yet "broken the back of the recession" but set aside calls for a second massive spending bill. Republicans, meanwhile, called spending under way a failure.

Axelrod

White House adviser David Axelrod urged patience for President Barack Obama's $787 billion economic stimulus package in the face of sliding poll numbers. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, a past and potentially future presidential candidate, said the spending was ill-designed and served only to expand the size of government.

Republicans have seized on the public's growing unease over government debt and spending to challenge the popular president. Sensing their own vulnerabilities, Obama's top advisers have ramped up their defense of spending that is incomplete and going slower than many had hoped.

"You know, we take the long view on this. Look, when the president signed the stimulus package—the economic recovery package—he said it's going to take a while for this to work," Axelrod said. "And we're going to go through some rough times, and unemployment is going to go up, and ... we have to work our way through this."

Some economists and business leaders have called for a second spending bill designed to help guide the economy through a downturn that has left millions without jobs. Axelrod said it's too early to know if more spending would be needed or if the administration would seek more money from Congress.

Study: Generation gap in US largest since 1960s

WASHINGTON (AP)—American adults from young to old disagree increasingly today on social values ranging from religion to relationships, creating the largest generation gap since divisions 40 years ago over Vietnam, civil rights and women's liberation.

A survey being released Monday by the Pew Research Center highlights a widening age divide after last November's election, when 18- to 29-year-olds voted for Democrat Barack Obama by a 2-to-1 ratio.

Almost eight in 10 people believe there is a major difference in the point of view of younger people and older people today, according to the independent public opinion research group. That is the highest spread since 1969, when about 74 percent reported major differences in an era of generational conflicts over the Vietnam War and civil and women's rights. In contrast, just 60 percent in 1979 saw a generation gap.

Asked to identify where older and younger people differ most, 47 percent said social values and morality. People age 18 to 29 were more likely to report disagreements over lifestyle, views on family, relationships and dating, while older people cited differences in a sense of entitlement. Those in the middle-age groups also often pointed to a difference in manners.

Religion is a far bigger part of the lives of older adults. About two-thirds of people 65 and older said religion is very important to them, compared with just over half of those 30 to 49 and 44 percent of people 18 to 29.

In addition, among adults 65 and older, one-third said religion has grown more important to them over the course of their lives, while 4 percent said it has become less important and 60 percent said it has stayed the same.

"Around the notion of morality and work ethic, the differences in point of view are pretty much felt across the board," said Paul Taylor, director of the Pew Social and Demographic Trends Project. He cited a greater tolerance among younger people on cultural issues such as gay marriage and interracial relationships.

Still, he noted that the generation gap in 2009 seems to be more tepid in nature than it was in the 1960s, when younger people built a defiant counterculture in opposing the Vietnam War and demanding equal rights for women and minorities.

"Today, it's more of a general outlook, a different point of view, a general set of moral values," Taylor said.

Surprising number of teens think they'll die young

CHICAGO (AP)—A surprising number of teenagers—nearly 15 percent—think they're going to die young, leading many to drug use, suicide attempts and other unsafe behavior, new research suggests.

The study, based on a survey of more than 20,000 kids, challenges conventional wisdom that says teens engage in risky behavior because they think they're invulnerable to harm. Instead, a sizable number of teens may take chances "because they feel hopeless and figure that not much is at stake," said study author Dr. Iris Borowsky, a researcher at the University of Minnesota.

ON THE NET

- American Academy of Pediatrics: http://www.aap.org
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: http://www.cdc.gov

That behavior threatens to turn their fatalism into a self-fulfilling prophecy. Over seven years, kids who thought they would die early were seven time more likely than optimistic kids to be subsequently diagnosed with AIDS. They also were more likely to attempt suicide and get in fights resulting in serious injuries.

Borowsky said the magnitude of kids with a negative outlook was eye-opening.

Adolescence is "a time of great opportunity and for such a large minority of youth to feel like they don't have a long life ahead of them was surprising," she said.

The study suggests a new way doctors could detect kids likely to engage in unsafe behavior and potentially help prevent it, said Dr. Jonathan Klein, a University of Rochester adolescent health expert who was not involved in the research.

ACROSS THE NATION

Arizona moves to allow concealed guns in bars

PHOENIX (AP)—There was a time in the Wild West that cowboys had to check their guns before they could pull up a bar stool for a drink—rules that protected against the saloon gunfights that came to define the frontier era in places like Arizona. But a bill moving through the Arizona Legislature has some bar owners fearful that the state is turning back the clock to the Old West. Lawmakers are considering a bill that would allow anyone with a concealed-weapons permit to bring a handgun into bars and restaurants serving alcohol. The bill gives bars discretion to keep gun-toting patrons out, and anyone with a weapon would not be allowed to drink. But the bill has angered bar owners who believe booze and guns are a recipe for disaster. "This might be one of the stupidest things that I have heard of," said Mike Nelson, who owns Pomeroy's bar in Phoenix and plans to post a sign on his front door outlawing guns in his bar as soon as possible. "Can you think of a single reason guns and alcohol should be intertwined?"

2 dead, 1 hospitalized in Wash. small plane crash

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP)—Authorities say a father and his young son were killed and his 5-year-old daughter was critically injured in a single-engine plane crash in central Washington state. The Yakima County Coroner's Office says 37-year-old Justin Reed of Yakima and his 13-year-old son Parrin were killed in the Sunday afternoon crash. Reed's daughter, Julie, suffered head injuries and multiple fractures, and was airlifted to a Seattle's Harborview Medical Center after first being taken to Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital. The single-engine Cessna was rented and went down about near the east end of Rimrock Lake, about 40 miles west of Yakima. Allen Kenitzer, regional spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration, says he isn't sure of the plane's destination or point of departure. The crash is being investigated.

Asia

NKorea scores US missile defense for Hawaii

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea criticized the U.S. on Monday for positioning missile defense systems around Hawaii, calling the deployment part of a plot to attack the regime and saying it would bolster its nuclear arsenal in retaliation.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has said he ordered the deployment of a ground-based, mobile missile intercept system and radar system to Hawaii amid concerns the North may fire a long-range missile toward the islands, about 4,500 miles away.

"Through the U.S. forces' clamorous movements, it has been brought to light that the U.S. attempt to launch a pre-emptive strike on our republic has become a brutal fact," the North's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper said in a commentary.

The paper also accused the U.S. of deploying nuclear-powered aircraft and atomic-armed submarines in waters near the Korean peninsula, saying the moves prove "the U.S. pre-emptive nuclear war" on the North is imminent.

The commentary, carried by the official Korean Central News Agency, said the North will bolster its nuclear arsenal in self-defense.

The North routinely accuses the U.S. of plotting to invade the North. But the U.S., which has 28,500 troops in South Korea, has said it has no such plan.

Tensions on the Korean peninsula have been running high since the North defiantly launched a rocket in April and conducted an underground nuclear test last month, prompting U.N. Security Council sanctions.

North Korea responded to the U.N. resolution on the nuclear test with threats of war, and pledged to expand its nuclear bomb-making program.

In what could be the first test of the U.N. sanctions, an American destroyer has been tracking a North Korean ship sailing off China's coast amid suspicions that it is carrying illicit weapons.

The Kang Nam, which left a North Korean port on June 17, is the first vessel monitored under U.N. sanctions that ban the regime from selling arms and weapons-related material. The resolution requires member nations to request permission to inspect the cargo of ships suspected of carrying banned goods.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, said on CBS television Sunday that Washington is "following the progress of that ship very closely." Rice would not say whether the U.S. would confront the Kang Nam.

First Khmer Rouge survivor testifies at tribunal

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—One of the only survivors of the Khmer Rouge's main torture center gave a long-awaited testimony Monday, weeping as he recounted the conditions at a facility where 16,000 others were tortured before execution.

Vann Nath, 63, escaped execution because he was an artist and took the job of painting and sculpting portraits of the Khmer Rouge's late leader, Pol Pot. His special status did not spare him misery.

"The conditions were so inhumane and the food was so little," Vann Nath told the tribunal, tears streaming down his face. "I even thought eating human flesh would be a good meal."

Van Nath said he was fed twice a day, each meal consisting of three teaspoons of rice porridge.

"I lost my dignity," he said. "They even gave animals more food."

The testimony came at the trial of Kaing Guek Eav—better known as Duch, who headed the S-21 prison in Phnom Penh from 1975-1979. Up to 16,000 men, women and children were tortured under his command and later taken away to be killed. Only 14 people, including Vann Nath, are thought to have survived.

Duch, 66, sat silently in his chair and watched Van Nath closely as he spoke. Duch is charged with crimes against humanity and is the first of five defendants scheduled for long-delayed trials by the U.N.-assisted tribunal.

Duch has previously testified that being sent to S-21 was tantamount to a death sentence and that he was only following orders to save his own life.

Appeal to reinstate witnesses for Suu Kyi rejected

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's highest court Monday rejected an appeal by lawyers of Aung San Suu Kyi to reinstate two key witnesses in a trial that has sparked global outrage.

The High Court upheld a lower court ruling, meaning Suu Kyi will be granted only two defense witnesses in her ongoing trial. She faces up to five years in prison if found guilty.

The 64-year-old Nobel laureate is charged with violating the terms of her house arrest when an uninvited American man swam secretly to her lakeside home and stayed two days.

Her hearing has drawn global outrage from world leaders and human rights groups who say Myanmar's junta is using the incident as an excuse to keep the country's opposition leader behind bars.

Suu Kyi has been in detention for more than 13 of the last 19 years.

Her trial resumes July 3 when an additional defense witness will testify before the District court inside Insein prison where Suu Kyi has been facing trial since May 18.

The court presiding over the trial in Myanmar's largest city, Yangon, had allowed only one of four defense witnesses to take the stand. On appeal, the Yangon Divisional Court ruled that a second witness could be heard.

Suu Kyi's lawyers pursued a second and final appeal to reinstate the remaining two barred witnesses, Win Tin and Tin Oo, both senior members of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy.

ASIAN BRIEFS

3 dead, 60 hurt in central China train collision

BEIJING (AP)—Two passenger trains collided Monday in an accident that killed three people and injured an additional 60 as train cars were derailed and nearby houses knocked over, Chinese state media and an official said. The pre-dawn crash occurred in Hunan province when a train going from the provincial capital Changsha to the southern city of Shenzhen collided with another Shenzhen-bound train, state television said. The China Central Television newscast showed a tangle of red, white and blue train cars on their sides at the station at Chenzhou, where the collision occurred at 2:34 a.m. (1834 GMT Sunday).

Pakistan offers reward for Taliban commander

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan ramped up its campaign against Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud on Sunday, placing a bounty on the chieftain's head and launching air strikes on his stronghold in the country's northwest. The government has expressed its determination in recent weeks to eliminate Mehsud, who is viewed with increasing alarm in Islamabad as a major threat to security in the country. His group has been blamed for a string of suicide bombings across the nation that have killed more than 100 people in the past month. The intensifying conflict between Pakistani security forces and Mehsud has been centered in North and South Waziristan—part of the mountainous tribal belt in the northwest—where the army appears to be preparing for a fresh offensive aimed at eliminating Mehsud and his militant network.

World

Iraq steps up security in cities

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi security forces bolstered checkpoints and banned motorcycles from the streets of Baghdad as they prepared Sunday for more violence before this week's withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from the capital and other cities and towns.

Despite the increased checks, a roadside bomb targeting a U.S. convoy in eastern Baghdad wounded six bystanders. It was unclear if anyone in the convoy was injured, police said.

A car bomb also exploded in the parking lot of a police academy in western Baghdad, killing one police officer and wounding six others, police said, speaking on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Iraq's main Sunni political bloc joined Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in describing the June 30 deadline for the U.S. withdrawal from urban areas as a turning point for the country.

AP

A U.S. Army soldier greets an Iraqi child during routine patrol in the Shiite enclave of Sadr City in Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday, June 28, 2009.

Iran: No downgrade of diplomatic ties with Britain

By WILLIAM J. KOLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

EDITOR'S NOTE: This report is based on the accounts of witnesses reached in Iran and official statements carried on Iranian media.

Iran dismissed the idea of downgrading diplomatic relations with Britain on Monday despite soaring tensions between the two countries after Iranian authorities detained local British Embassy employees for allegedly stirring up post-election unrest.

Britain has angrily denied that any Iranian staff at its embassy in Tehran have been involved in opposition challenges to the regime. On Sunday, the European Union condemned the detentions as "harassment and intimidation" and demanded the immediate release of those still in custody.

Iran has accused the West of stoking unrest, singling out Britain and the United States. Both countries have expressed concern about the ferocity of the regime's crackdown on supporters of opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi, who claims he was robbed of victory in a June 12 presidential election through massive and widespread vote fraud.

Iranian officials had said they were considering downgrading ties with Britain, which expelled two Iranian diplomats last week—a retaliatory move after Iran ousted two British envoys.

Honduras torn between ousted leader, replacement

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Honduras is now torn between two presidents: one legally recognized by world bodies after he was deposed and forced from the country by his own soldiers, and another supported by the Central American nation's congress, courts and military.

Presidents from around Latin America were gathering in Nicaragua for meetings Monday to resolve the first military overthrow of a Central American government in 16 years, and once again Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez took center stage, casting the dispute as a rebellion by the region's poor.

"If the oligarchies break the rules of the game as they have done, the people have the right to resistance and combat, and we are with them," Chavez said in the Nicaraguan capital, Managua.

There is a deep rift between the outside world—which is clamoring for the return of democratically elected, but largely unpopular and soon-to-leave-office President Manuel Zelaya—and congressionally designated successor Roberto Micheletti.

Micheletti rejected any outside interference and declared a two-night curfew, while Chavez vowed that "we will overthrow (Micheletti)."

WORLD BRIEFS

Somali pirates release Belgian ship's crew

BRUSSELS (AP)—Somali pirates have released the entire crew of a Belgian ship seized 10 weeks ago after a ransom was paid, the Belgian government said Sunday. The 10-member crew of the Pompei dredger was in good health and sailing the ship to an unidentified harbor where it will arrive in a few days, the government said. The crew members will then fly home to their families. Defense Minister Pieter De Crem told a news conference that the ship's owners paid a ransom to release the ship and crew. He declined to say how much, but said pirates had demanded $8 million.

1 killed as rivals trade gunfire in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP)—Sunni supporters of Lebanon's prime minister-designate and Shiite rivals from the parliament speaker's political faction traded gunfire in a Beirut neighborhood Sunday. Security officials said one civilian was killed and two others were wounded in the first outbreak of violence since this month's elections. Automatic rifle fire and three explosions were heard in the brief gunbattle that underlined the continued sectarian tensions despite recent pledges by political leaders to work together. Those pledges followed a bruising election campaign. Hours earlier, the Western-backed billionaire who is to become the country's next prime minister, Saad Hariri, was holding talks with his predecessors as part of the delicate process of forming a government that can unify the deeply divided country.

Overdrive

2010 JAGUAR XF

Sedan nods to practicality, roars with sensuality

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

THE WASHINGTON POST
The 2010 Jaguar XF Premium sedan gives a nod to practicality but roars with sensuality.

Artifice has value, particularly in automotive journalism. I, for example, will use any excuse to get behind the wheel of a new automobile, especially one as beautiful as the 2010 Jaguar XF Premium sedan.

Visually, it differs little from the 2009 Jaguar XF Supercharged sedan I reviewed in April 2008.

It matters not.

I wouldn't refuse a chance to drive a Jaguar XF any more than I'd turn down a front-row ticket to a Tina Turner concert. Both epitomize the difference between sex and sensuality. Sex is fleeting, often forgettable. Sensuality speaks to the heart and soul. If you've seen Tina once, you'll want to see her again. If you've driven a Jaguar XF sedan once—the base XF, the tested XF Premium, or the truly exotic XFR—you'll want to drive one again. Any excuse that allows a repeat experience is sufficient.

I had an excuse, albeit flimsy.

Jaguar, like many of its rivals, has been under government pressure to deliver more fuel economy. But the trick for luxury brands is to do that without harming their basic character—what automotive marketers call "a car's DNA."

Historically, Jaguar's DNA has yielded rear-wheel-drive automobiles known for their beauty, power and speed. But as a ward of Ford Motor, Jaguar fiddled with that formula, offering models such as the front-wheel-drive X-Type and S-Type.

The "X" and "S" were "affordable" and offered better fuel economy in comparison with traditional Jaguar standards. Stylistically, both cars were throwbacks to the days when Jaguar signaled exclusion. But neither had an ounce of traditional Jaguar panache, and both were weighted with fuel economy and performance no better than ordinary front-wheel-drive, mid-size family sedans.

The novelty of the "X" and "S" wore off. Both were discontinued by the 2008 model year, when Ford, in search of cash, sold Jaguar to the Tata Group, a multinational conglomerate based in Mumbai.

With the rear-wheel-drive XF Premium, Jaguar's designers once again are trying to please the gods of fuel economy without offending those reigning over beauty, power and speed. But it appears that the gods must be crazy.

The XF Premium comes with a new, 5-liter, 385-horsepower V-8 engine—more than enough power to satisfy motorists who want muscle, but who are not inclined to show off by flexing their motorized biceps.

It is a noble effort, one that has emerald patina. But the XF Premium yields only slightly better fuel economy than what is offered by the XFR with its supercharged, 510-horsepower version of Jaguar's 5-liter V-8.

The XF Premium gets 16 miles per gallon in the city and 25 mpg on the highway. The XFR gets 15 mpg in the city and 23 mpg on the highway. Both models require premium unleaded gasoline.

The likelihood is that most fundamental Jaguar worshipers—the people for whom beauty, power and speed are sacred—won't care. Such folks spend huge amounts of money and time pursuing "Jaguarness"—buying and selling Jaguar cars new and old, collecting and displaying them at regional and national car shows, getting together for "Jaguar weekends" and holding rallies crowned by festive award dinners.

Such enthusiasts are deeply touched by details such as the contrast stitching on the XF Premium's interior leather panels. That means some of them will be disappointed by the inconsistent use of that technique in the XF Premium, which features contrast stitching on dashboard- and door-panel coverings, but abandons the technique on the car's leather-covered seats.

That might seem a silly concern to non-Jaguar people. But to the aficionados, it is a deficiency worthy of demerits at regional and national Jaguar car shows.

All else about the XF Premium, including its glove compartment and cup holders—elegantly hidden behind and beneath soft-touch doors of ebony wood veneer—meets show standards. The car is a classically beautiful piece of motorized art, a luxury car that feints toward honoring practicality while sacrificing precious little of its aesthetic appeal.

NUTS & BOLTS

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINT
It's a "Jaguarness" thing. A seemingly small error in such a pricey automobile—inconsistency in the use of contrast stitching in the interior—is a big deal to some of its more finicky buyers.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
The XF Premium gets high marks in all three categories.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
It's simply beautiful. It's motorized art.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The XF Premium is a mid-size, front-engine, rear-wheel-drive luxury sedan with a unitized, mostly aluminum body.

ENGINE, TRANSMISSION
The XF Premium comes with a 5-liter, 32-valve, direct-injection V-8 engine that develops 385 horsepower at 6,500 revolutions per minute and 380 foot-pounds of torque at 3,500 rpm. The engine is mated to a six-speed transmission that can be shifted automatically or manually.

CAPACITIES
There are seats for five people. Luggage space is 17.7 cubic feet. The fuel tank holds 18.4 gallons of required premium unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE
Keep this one out of traffic jams, where it barely gets 16 miles per gallon. Highway cruising delivers better mileage at 25 mpg.

SAFETY
Standard equipment includes four-wheel ventilated disc brakes with antilock control; electronic stability and traction control; front and rear seat belts that automatically tighten and hold buckled occupants close to seats in a crash; high-intensity discharge headlamps. Optional safety equipment includes side mirrors with blind-spot warning technology, highly recommended by this columnist.

PRICE
The base price on the 2010 Jaguar XF Premium is $56,150. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $51,097. Price as tested: $62,875, including $5,875 in options (heated and cooled ventilated front seats, 20-inch diameter wheels, contrast stitching, electric rear-window sunblind, Bowers & Wilkins premium sound system) and an $850 transportation charge. Dealer's price as tested is $56,941. Prices are sourced from Jaguar, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
The Jaguar XF Premium is one of a kind. You either love it, or you don't.

GM to take on future product liability claims

NEW YORK (AP)—General Motors Corp. has agreed to take on responsibility for future product liability claims, removing what could have been a sizable roadblock on the automaker's path to a quick sale of its assets and emergence from Chapter 11 bankruptcy as a new company.

As part of its government-backed restructuring plan, GM wants to sell the bulk of its assets to a new company and leave behind unprofitable assets and other liabilities such as product-related lawsuits. A hearing on the proposed sale is scheduled for Tuesday.

But in a concession to consumer groups and state officials who had threatened to block the sale because of product liability concerns, the new company will now assume responsibility for future claims involving vehicles made by the old company, according to documents filed in federal bankruptcy court in New York on Friday.

Under the automaker's previous plan, "New GM" would not have assumed any liability for future claims related to GM vehicles made before the sale and creation of the new company. That meant that consumers who wanted to file a lawsuit related to a defective GM vehicle would have had to seek compensation from "Old GM," a collection of mostly unprofitable assets left over after the sale, where there likely would be nothing left to pay their claims.

AP
In this Dec. 12, 2008 file photo, the General Motors logo is seen outside the GM headquarters in downtown Detroit.

But under the new plan, "New GM" will not assume liability for already pending claims against the automaker and those people will still be forced to seek compensation from "Old GM."

Life & Style

TV pitchman Billy Mays found dead at Florida home

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Billy Mays, the burly, bearded television pitchman whose boisterous hawking of products such as Orange Glo and OxiClean made him a pop-culture icon, has died. He was 50.

Tampa police said Mays' wife found him unresponsive Sunday morning. A fire rescue crew pronounced him dead at 7:45 a.m. It was not immediately clear how he died. He said he was hit on the head when an airplane he was on made a rough landing Saturday, and his wife, Deborah Mays, told investigators he didn't feel well before he went to bed about 10 p.m. that night.

There were no signs of a break-in at the home, and investigators do not suspect foul play, said Lt. Brian Dugan of the Tampa Police Department, who wouldn't answer questions about how Mays' body was found because of the ongoing investigation. The coroner's office expects to have an autopsy done by Monday afternoon.

"Although Billy lived a public life, we don't anticipate making any public statements over the next couple of days," Deborah Mays said in a statement Sunday. "Our family asks that you respect our privacy during these difficult times."

U.S. Airways confirmed that Mays was among the passengers on a flight that made a rough landing on Saturday afternoon at Tampa International Airport, leaving debris on the runway after apparently blowing its front tires.

Tampa Bay's Fox television affiliate interviewed Mays afterward.

"All of a sudden as we hit you know it was just the hardest hit, all the things from the ceiling started dropping," MyFox Tampa Bay quoted him as saying. "It hit me on the head, but I got a hard head."

Tampa police spokeswoman Laura McElroy said linking Mays' death to the landing would "purely be speculation." She said Mays' family members didn't report any health issues with the pitchman, but said he was due to have hip replacement surgery in the coming weeks.

Laura Brown, spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration, said she did not know if Mays was wearing his seat belt on the flight because the FAA is not investigating his death.

U.S. Airways spokesman Jim Olson said there were no reports of serious injury due to the landing.

"If local authorities have any questions for us about yesterday's flight, we'll cooperate fully with them," he said.

Born William Mays in McKees Rocks, Pa., on July 20, 1958, Mays developed his style demonstrating knives, mops and other "As Seen on TV" gadgets on Atlantic City's boardwalk. For years he worked as a hired gun on the state fair and home show circuits, attracting crowds with his booming voice and genial manner.

AJ Khubani, founder and CEO of "As Seen on TV," said he first met Mays in the early 1990s when Mays was still pitching one of his early products, the Shammy absorbent cloth, at a trade fair. He said he most recently worked with Mays on the reality TV show "Pitchmen" on the Discovery Channel, which follows Mays and Anthony Sullivan in their marketing jobs.

"His innovative role and impact on the growth and wide acceptance of direct response television cannot be overestimated or easily replaced; he was truly one of a kind," Khubani said of Mays in a statement.

After meeting Orange Glo International founder Max Appel at a home show in Pittsburgh in the mid-1990s, Mays was recruited to demonstrate the environmentally friendly line of cleaning products on the St. Petersburg-based Home Shopping Network.

Commercials and informercials followed, anchored by the high-energy Mays showing how it's done while tossing out kitschy phrases like, "Long live your laundry!"

Sarah Ellerstein worked closely with Mays when she was a buyer for the Home Shopping Network in the 1990s and he was pitching Orange Glo products.

"Billy was such a sweet guy, very lovable, very nice, always smiling, just a great, great guy," she said, adding that Mays met his future wife at the network. "Everybody thinks because he's loud and boisterous on the air that that's the way he is, but I always found him to be a quiet, down-to-earth person."

His ubiquitousness and thumbs-up, in-your-face pitches won Mays plenty of fans for his commercials on a wide variety of products. People lined up at his personal appearances for autographed color glossies, and strangers stopped him in airports to chat about the products.

AP

In this Dec. 6, 2002 file photo,TV pitchman Billy Mays poses with some of his cleaning products at his Palm Harbor, Fla., home.

Death and Funeral Announcement

Rosario Mendiola Cabrera Attao

"Nan Ari"

Born: September 30, 1924, of Chalan Piao, Saipan
Peacefully joined her Creator on June 24, 2009 at the age of 84.

In her new life, Rosario now joins her
Husband: Jose San Nicolas Attao

Parents: Jose Palacios Cabrera & Maria Mendiola Cabrera

Parents-in-Law: Vicente Magofna Attao & Natividad San Nicolas Attao

Brothers/Sisters/In-Laws:
Roberto M. & Vicenta C. Tudela, Francisca & Pedro Borja, Celia C. & Antonio D. Reyes, Ramona C. & Manuel S. Sablan, Gabriel M. & Rosa E. Cabrera, Vicente M. & Maria DLC Cabrera, Alfred F. Santos, Francisco & Rosa Torres, Pedro SN & Ninfa Attao, Maria A. & Alejandro Bermudes, Carmen A. Concepcion, Isabel A. & Ignacio Benavente, Teresita SN Attao, Margarita A. Duenas

Rosario's loving memory will forever be treasured by her Children, Grand/Great grand Children and other members of her family:

Children/Spouses & their families:
Vicente C. & Elizabeth A. Attao: Ina *(Juanda, Naomi, John Jr.)*, Kristine *(Kristina, Samuel, James Jr.)*, Catherine & Mark Toves *(Joseph, Markel, Theresa, Merrick, Markus)*;
Celina A. & Aldebert Concepcion *(Aldebert Jr. & Carminadela N. Concepcion (Aldebert III, Joseph, Brian)*, Christopher, Kimberly, Michael;
Maria Ramona *(Marlene)* **A. & Ricardo P. Balajadia** (Ricardo Jr. *(Sierra)*, Brian John)

Brothers/Sisters/In-Laws:
Probio M. & Trinidad "Mitch" DLC Cabrera, **Martha C. Santos, Vicenta C.** & George L. Teregeyo, Cesario Concepcion, George Duenas

Extended Family: Florencia "Flo" Gacutan (Richard), Clifford & Merle Sakamoto

She will also be missed by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren and other relatives and friends.

Daily mass is being offered at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 a.m. (9:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 28).
Nightly Rosary is being held at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:00 p.m.
On Thursday, July 2, 2009, her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 a.m.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Internment follows at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You
Ginen I Famaguon-na yan Familia

AP

Host Jamie Foxx right, and Ne-Yo, center, pay tribute to the late singer Michael Jackson at the finale of the 9th Annual BET Awards on Sunday, June 28, 2009, in Los Angeles.

Michael Jackson's legacy is honored at the BET Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—While BET celebrated the life of Michael Jackson the entertainer, Janet Jackson—in her first public appearance since her brother's shocking death—memorialized him as her beloved sibling and family member, eliciting tears as she vowed his memory would live forever.

"To you, Michael is an icon," said Jackson, holding back tears at Sunday's BET Awards. "To us, Michael is family and he will forever live in all of our hearts. On behalf of my family and myself, thank you for all of your love, thank you for all of your support. We miss him so much, thank you so much."

Afterward, Ne-Yo and host Jamie Foxx performed a somber version of the Jackson 5 classic "I'll Be There," as photos of Jackson flashed across the screen.

It was a stirring emotional highlight for a show that was completely revamped to recognize the legacy of Jackson, who died Thursday at age 50. While awards were still doled out, the show's main focus was to pay tribute to the man who shaped the careers of every entertainer who walked the stage that night.

Joe Jackson, the singer's father, also was on hand to represent the grief-stricken family. "I just wish he could be here to celebrate himself," he said before the show. "Sadly, he's not here, so I'm here to celebrate for him."

And for the most part, it was a joyous wake.

"No need to be sad. We want to celebrate this black man," said Foxx, who kicked off the show with a re-enactment of the choreography from Jackson's iconic "Beat It" video in front of the star-studded crowd, on its feet from the start of the show

Already an affair of major star wattage, the night's show at the Shrine Auditorium was thrown under a white-hot spotlight in the wake of Jackson's death, adding attendees and guests, doubling the number of media requests, adding an extra half-hour to the telecast and even lengthening the red carpet to accommodate all who wanted to take part.

Backstage, Ciara recounted talking on the phone with her idol and her regrets that she never got to meet him. As she talked, she started to cry. "He meant so much to me," she said through tears.

While Jackson's incredible influence stretched across genres, races and cultures, he had a unique place in the world of black entertainment. His influence is arguably most visible in urban music, seen in stars like Usher who mimic his dance moves, to Ne-Yo, whose music is marked by its Jacksonisms. But that influence went beyond music: Jackson was black America's biggest star, who broke racial barriers that allowed for so many other superstars to follow.

"Michael Jackson was so important to our world, to our country, to this network," said BET Chairwoman Debra L. Lee. "Michael was truly a musical deity."

Producers of the annual awards show—which recognizes the best in music, acting and sports—revamped the show to meet the moment. While Beyonce and T.I. were the leading award nominees with five apiece, giving out trophies was an afterthought: Honoring Jackson became the show's main focus.

Death and Funeral Announcement

†VICTORIA SANTOS PANGELINAN ALCANTARA

Also Known As " Baling – Talu"

November 27, 1957 - June 25, 2009

In her New Life, she now joins her:

PARENTS : †Joaquin C. Pangelinan
†Francisca S. Pangelinan

Survived by:

HUSBAND : Alfredo E. Alcantara
Former HUSBAND : Epecidio P. Mamaril

CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN:

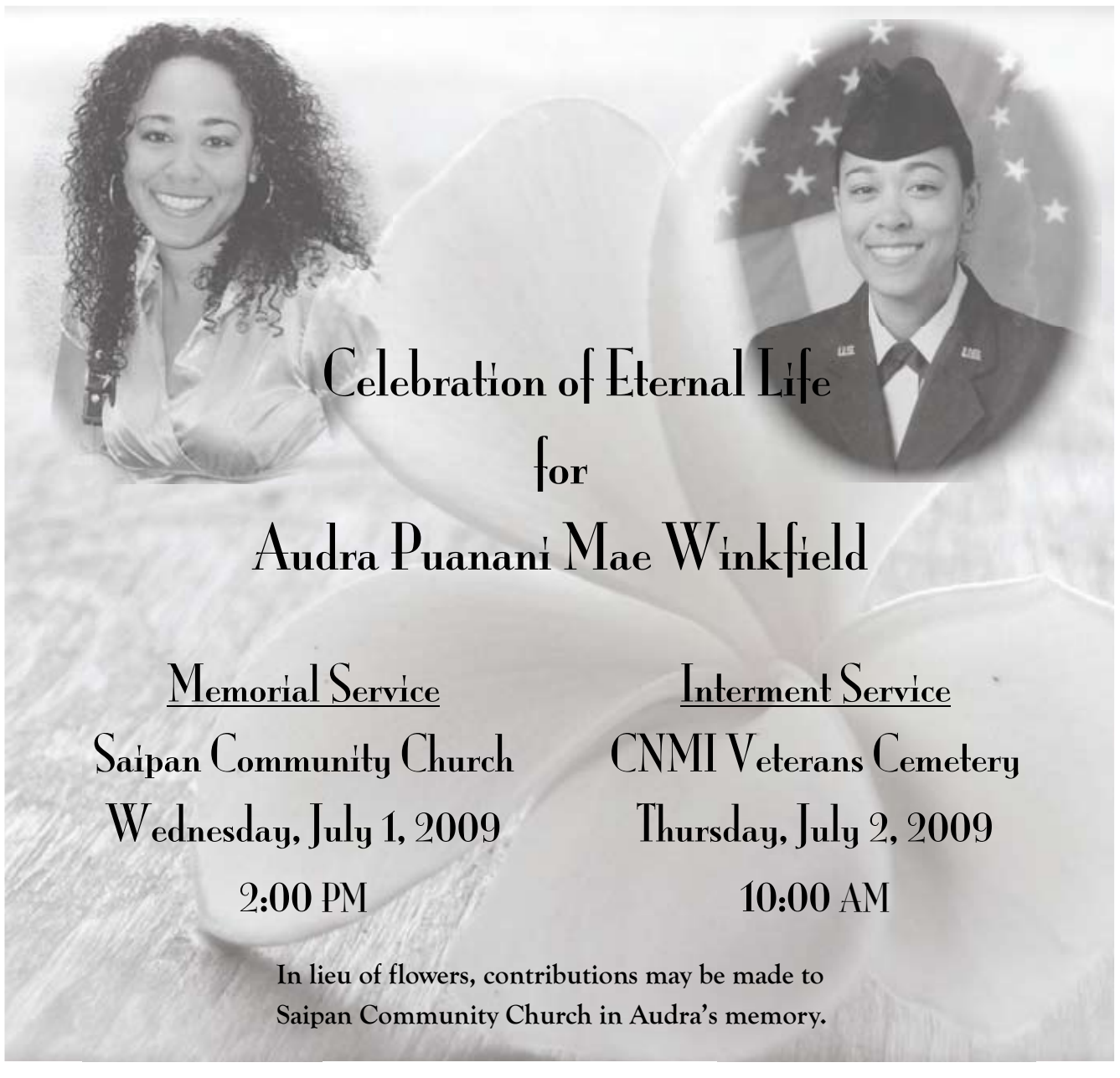
Marty S. Pangelinan & Josie : (Marty Jr., Angel, William, Cathleen, Kimberly)
Vedalema S. Valencia & Bernard : (Velmarie, Vernadel, Veralynn)
Imelda M. Quitugua & Daniel Jr. : (Jacob, Noah , Kai'leah)
Juena M. Pangelinan & Glenn : (Lamont, Gabriel, Glenn, Ayh'dan)

She will also be missed by her brothers , sisters , in-laws and all other relatives and friends.

Mass of intention is being offered nightly at 6:00pm at Santa Soledad Church, Kagman.
On Friday, July 3, 2009, her remains will leave Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 8:00am and will be escorted to Santa Soledad Church for Responso Service and Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10:00am. Interment follows immediately at Sanctuario Pax Memorial Gardens, Kagman.

Your presence and prayers are much appreciated.

The Family



Lawyer for doctor: Jackson had pulse when found

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson still had a faint pulse and his body was warm when his doctor found him in bed and not breathing, a lawyer for the doctor told The Associated Press on Sunday.

Lawyer Edward Chernoff also said Dr. Conrad Murray never prescribed or gave Jackson the drugs Demerol or OxyContin. He denied reports suggesting Murray gave Jackson drugs that contributed to his death.

Chernoff told the AP that Murray was at the pop icon's rented mansion on Thursday afternoon when he discovered Jackson in bed and not breathing. The doctor immediately began administering CPR, Chernoff said.

"He just happened to find him in his bed, and he wasn't breathing," the lawyer said. "Mr. Jackson was still warm and had a pulse."

Chernoff said any drugs the doctor gave Jackson were prescribed in response to a specific complaint from the entertainer.

"Dr. Murray has never prescribed nor administered Demerol to Michael Jackson," Chernoff said. "Not ever. Not that day. ... Not Oxycontin (either) for that matter."

Paramedics were called to the mansion while the doctor was performing CPR, according to a recording of the 911 call. Medics spent three-quarters of an hour trying to revive Jackson. He was pronounced dead later at UCLA Medical Center.

People close to Jackson have said since his death that they were concerned about his use of painkillers. Los Angeles County medical examiners completed their autopsy Friday and said Jackson had taken unspecified prescription medication.

Murray was interviewed by investigators for three hours Saturday. His spokeswoman called Murray "a witness to this tragedy," not a suspect in the death, and police described the doctor as cooperative.

Three days after the death of the King of Pop, celebrities descended on Los Angeles for what promised to be a spectacular celebration of Jackson's life at the annual BET awards show.

Media requests for the Sunday night show doubled following the death, and the red carpet was lengthened. It was not immediately clear whether any members of the Jackson family, who gathered at their Encino compound over the weekend, planned to take part.

Previously announced performers including Beyonce and Ne-Yo, were working to overhaul performances they had planned for weeks so they could honor Jackson. Other stars tried to catch last-minute flights.

A private pathologist hired by the Jackson family completed a second, private autopsy Saturday, the Los Angeles Times reported, citing unnamed people familiar with the case.

A second autopsy can allow the family to get some information about a death almost immediately, including signs of heart, brain or lung disease or fresh needle punctures, said Dr. Michael Baden, a medical examiner not involved in the Jackson case.

"Usually if it looks normal with the naked eye, it looks normal under the microscope," said Baden, who recently performed a second autopsy on actor David Carradine.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson said after visiting Michael Jackson's family that the family still had unanswered questions about how he died.

Los Angeles County coroner's officials said their autopsy found no indication of trauma or foul play. But because of additional tests, an official cause of death could take weeks to determine.

There was no word from the Jackson family on funeral plans. Many of Jackson's relatives have gathered at the family's Encino compound, caring there for Jackson's three children.

On Saturday, three of Jackson's brothers—Jackie, Jermaine and Tito—visited Jackson's Neverland Ranch where they walked the manicured grounds and reminisced about his life. It is not clear what will become of the ranch, which has been under renovations.

Jackson was acquitted at trial but never recovered

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson called his trial on child molestation claims, "the hardest thing I've ever done in my life." Acquitted of all charges by a jury but convicted by public opinion, he spent the rest of his life trying to recover from the ordeal.

AP

In this Aug. 29, 1993 file photo, pop singer Michael Jackson performs during his "Dangerous" concert in National Stadium, Singapore.

On many fronts, it was a losing battle. Late night comedians derided him as a pedophile. Prosecutors who lost the case against him never accepted the jury verdict and Jackson felt driven to give up his beloved Neverland Ranch and leave the country.

This month, exactly four years after the verdict, the nation's greatest pop star was on the verge of a dazzling comeback. His "This Is It" concert tour was to be his artistic rebirth, a vivid signal that he had at last recovered from the trial.

But Thomas Mesereau Jr., the lawyer who defended Jackson, said the star never fully recovered from the trial.

"The jury said, 'not guilty,' 14 times," Mesereau recalls. "You couldn't have a verdict that got any closer to full vindication."

On the acquittal day, Mesereau issued a statement: "Justice is done. The man's innocent. He always was."

Mesereau said in an interview Saturday that the effort by prosecutors and many media outlets to demonize Jackson during the 2005 trial took a physical and emotional toll on the already fragile defendant that was difficult to erase.

"These were horrible charges to accuse any one of and they were completely bogus," he said.

Jackson could have gotten nearly 20 years behind bars if convicted of charges that he molested a 13-year-old cancer survivor at Neverland in 2003. Jurors also acquitted Jackson of getting the boy drunk and of conspiring to imprison the accuser and his family at the ranch.

Jackson's defense team prevailed with evidence that he was the victim of mother-and-son con artists and a prosecutor with a vendetta.

Mesereau recalled Jackson visibly withering as the trial progressed, losing weight, his cheeks sunken, his skin pale. Twice he was taken to a hospital emergency room for treatment.

"The poor fellow couldn't sleep, couldn't eat. He was very worried about what would happen to his children if he was sent away. It took a horrible toll on him," said Mesereau.

The attorney said Jackson suffered at the hands of a media contingent that wished him to be convicted.

"Much of the media was having a field day trying to make him out as a monster," he said. "People were trying to build careers off a conviction."

At first, though, the hysteria that would surround the trial was fed by Jackson the showman. On the day he pleaded not guilty, he responded to the cheers of fans by jumping atop an SUV and doing some dance steps.

About 1,500 people, including fans and media from around the world, swarmed outside the courthouse in a scene reminiscent of a concert, with vendors selling T-shirts, steaks and hot dogs to the many fans who had come in chartered buses and cars.

By the time the trial began, over a year later, a media tent city of 2,200 reporters and camera crews sprang up outside the courthouse. There were no more antics by Jackson, although he commissioned a costume designer to create his outfits for court, favoring military style jackets with a rainbow of different colored vests and armbands.

Mesereau said Jackson deteriorated rapidly. The artist known for his electric, moonwalking performances was rendered motionless, seemingly frozen in his courtroom chair as his private world became utterly public.

The hardest part, the attorney said, was for Jackson to be accused by a child. It had happened once before in 1993 but that case was settled without a trial. "He didn't really trust adults," Mesereau said. "He looked to children as the people who wouldn't hurt him."

When the trial was over, Jackson left the courthouse, waving weakly to the crowds of fans who never left him. And then he disappeared.

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Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen
Fri. and Sat. 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sun. thru Tue. 1:00 4:00 7:00
Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox
Sci-Fi Action • Rated PG-13

Synopsis
The battle for Earth has ended but the battle for the universe has just begun. After returning to Cybertron, Starscream assumes command of the Decepticons, and has decided to return to Earth with force. The Autobots believing that peace was possible finds out that Megatron's dead body has been stolen from the US Military by Skorpinox and revives him using his own spark. Now Megatron is back seeking revenge and with Starscream and more Decepticon reinforcements on the way,

My Sister's Keeper
Fri. and Sat. 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:55
Sun. thru Tue. 1:30 4:25 7:20
Cameron Diaz, Abigail Breslin
Family Drama • Rated PG-13

Synopsis
Conceived as a marrow donor for her gravely ill sister, Anna Fitzgerald (Abigail Breslin) has undergone countless surgeries and medical procedures in her short life. Though their older daughter's life has no doubt been prolonged, the unorthodox decision of Anna's parents has cracked the entire family's foundation. When Anna sues her parents for emancipation, it sets off a court case that threatens to destroy the family for good.

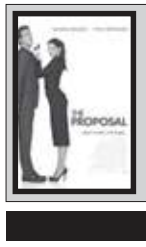
★ ★ ★

BFF (Best Friends Forever)
Fri. and Sat. 1:05 4:05 7:10 9:35
Sun. thru Tue. 1:05 4:05 7:10
Sharon Cuneta, Ai Ai Delas Alas
Prehistoric Fantasy, Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis
Best Friends Forever movie (BFF) is the new film that stars the Mega Star Ms. Sharon Cuneta and the comedy concert Queen Ms. Ai Ai Delas Alas. I'm not so sure why it's already out and being promoted but then, all I know is that it was made just a few months ago as far as I can remember it. This is a comedy film so it does not necessarily have to take years to finish, in fact, these types of movies are the type that's really very easy to finish especially if the actors and actresses are professional.

Year One
Fri. and Sat. 1:10 4:15 7:30 9:45
Sun. thru Tue. 1:10 4:15 7:30
Jack Black, Michael Cera
Drama Comedy • Rated PG-13

Taking of Pelham 123
Fri. and Sat. 1:20 4:20 7:05 9:50
Sun. thru Tue. 1:20 4:20 7:05
Denzel Washington, John Travolta
Thriller • Rated R



The Proposal
Fri. and Sat. 1:15 4:10 7:15 9:40
Sun. thru Tue. 1:15 4:10 7:15
Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG-13

The Hangover
Fri. and Sat. 1:25 4:30 7:25 9:30
Sun. thru Tue. 1:25 4:30 7:25
Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms
Comedy • Rated R

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'Transformers' takes to sky with $112M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Alien robots have transformed into box-office superstars with $200 million in domestic ticket sales in just five days.

"Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" took in $112 million in the sequel's first weekend and $201.2 million since opening Wednesday, according to Sunday estimates from Paramount, which is distributing the DreamWorks movie.

It was well on the way to becoming the year's top-grossing movie.

That was a few million dollars higher than other studios were expecting for the movie, and the figures could change a bit when final numbers are released Monday.

Still, it was a colossal start for the "Transformers" sequel, whose opening five days amounted to nearly two-thirds of the $319 million domestic total the franchise's first movie did over its entire run in 2007.

Now playing in almost every other country except India, the movie added $185.8 million overseas, for a worldwide total of $387 million. That's well over half the $708 million global total for the first "Transformers."

That first movie began with a $70.5 million weekend. Based on how well the sequel has done, "Revenge of the Fallen" could join the handful of movies that have topped the $400 million mark domestically.

"I'd say given the momentum it has, it's got a real shot," said Rob Moore, vice chairman at Paramount.

For the first five days, the "Transformers" sequel was second only to last summer's "The Dark Knight" with $203.8 million.

1. "**Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen**," $112 million.
2. "**The Proposal**," $18.5 million.
3. "**The Hangover**," $17.2 million.
4. "**Up**," $13 million.
5. "**My Sister's Keeper**," $12 million.
6. "**Year One**," $5.8 million.
7. "**The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3**," $5.4 million.
8. "**Star Trek**," $3.6 million.
9. "**Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian**," $3.5 million.
10. "**Away We Go**," $1.7 million.

AP

Samantha Previte, 20, from North Brunswick, N.J., gets to meet Shia LaBeouf, co-star of the new film "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen," during his appearance on the NBC "Today" television program in New York Thursday, June 25, 2009. Previte, an audience member, expressed her desire to meet LaBeouf to program co-host Matt Lauer who invited her in to the studio.

This was the biggest opening weekend of this year, surpassing the $85.1 million debut of "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" in early May.

The sequel began with $60.6 million on its opening day Wednesday. That also was second only to "The Dark Knight," which had the biggest box-office day ever with $67.2 million on opening day.

With $14.4 million at 169 IMAX theaters, "Transformers" set a record for a five-day opening in the giant-screen format, nearly doubling the previous best of $7.3 million set by "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix."

"Transformers" overcame harsh reviews from critics, who called it a visual-effects extravaganza without much story or human heart. Director Michael Bay has a history of bad reviews and big box office with "Armageddon" and "Pearl Harbor."

"Michael Bay knows how to build the perfect summer box-office beast," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "He squarely aimed right at the demographic, right at what summer moviegoers want, and he put it on the screen. And audiences can't seem to get enough of it."

The sequel broadened the franchise's fan base. Females accounted for just 40 percent of the audience for the first "Transformers" but 46 percent for the sequel, Moore said.

Much of that was due to the on-screen romance for the characters played by Shia LaBeouf and Megan Fox, who were relative unknowns when the first movie came out.

With a $13 million weekend, Disney and Pixar Animation's "Up" became the year's top-grossing film domestically at $250.2 million. It surpassed Paramount's "Star Trek," which did $3.6 million over the weekend to hit a $246.2 million total.

The reign of "Up" at the top of the year's box-office chart will be short-lived, though. The "Transformers" sequel should shoot past it in a matter of days.

The Warner Bros. melodrama "My Sister's Keeper," with Cameron Diaz and Abigail Breslin, had a so-so debut, coming in at No. 5 with $12 million. Breslin plays a daughter conceived as a donor for her older sister, who has leukemia.

Summit Entertainment's Iraq War drama "The Hurt Locker" had a strong start in limited release, taking in $144,000 in four theaters for an average of $36,000 a cinema. That compares to an average of $26,453 in 4,234 theaters for "Transformers."

Starring Jeremy Renner and Anthony Mackie as members of a U.S. bomb squad in Baghdad, "The Hurt Locker" has a chance to become the first real commercial success among recent war-on-terror movies, which audiences generally have avoided.

"The Hurt Locker" has earned stellar reviews since debuting at film festivals last year. It rolls out to more theaters on July 10.

'Ugly Betty' actress Ana Ortiz has daughter

NEW YORK (AP)—"Ugly Betty" actress Ana Ortiz is a brand-new mom.

A spokesman for Ortiz says she and her husband, musician Noah Lebenzon, welcomed their first child, a girl, in New York on Saturday afternoon.

Their bundle of joy, named Paloma Louise, weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces (3.4 kilograms). Ortiz's spokesman, Tim Yates, says the family has left the hospital and is back home in Brooklyn.

Yates says Ortiz is "very excited," and has received gifts from her "Ugly Betty" co-stars.

The 38-year-old actress portrays Betty's sister, Hilda, on the popular ABC comedy. She's due to begin filming the fourth season next month.

Michael Jackson's brothers visit Neverland

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Three of the brothers who sang and danced beside Michael Jackson in the Jackson 5 made a private visit to the pop star's Neverland Ranch, where they walked the manicured grounds and reminisced about his life.

Jackie, Jermaine and Tito Jackson were joined for lunch Saturday at the estate by billionaire investor Thomas Barrack, who previously set up a joint venture with Michael Jackson that took control of the ranch after the singer nearly lost it to foreclosure last year.

It's not known what will become of the 2,500-acre (1,000-hectare), Santa Barbara County ranch, a major piece of the singer's debt-strapped financial empire. There have been unconfirmed reports that it could become a memorial or museum honoring Jackson's legacy in the mold of Elvis Presley's Graceland.

It's "premature to talk about the future of the property," said Owen Blicksilver, a spokesman for Colony Capital LLC, the Los Angeles-based firm where Barrack is chairman and CEO.

Barrack "feels very close to the family and wants to hear their thoughts about how best to honor Michael's memory," Blicksilver said.

The ranch in the rolling hills of central California wine country was set to be sold in March 2008 because of missed payments on a $24.5 million loan, but Jackson managed to cut an 11th-hour deal to keep it off the auction block.

He was 29 and at the height of his popularity when he bought the ranch, naming it after the mythical land of Peter Pan, where boys never grow up.

At once a symbol of Jackson's success and excesses, Neverland became the site of a makeshift memorial after his death Thursday.

Scores of fans have streamed past the gated entrance to leave handwritten notes, photographs, balloons and flowers.

The ranch "is always going to be a memorial to Michael," said Gladys Beaty of Sacramento, who traveled to the property Sunday. "It's going to always be treasured."

Jackson fled the ranch — and the country — after his acquittal on charges that he molested a 13-year-old cancer survivor in 2003 at the estate after getting him drunk.

Jackson moved luxury cars, artwork, jewelry, costumes and other property off the ranch last year for an auction that never occurred.

Recently, renovations have been under way, including extensive landscaping.

Man's plan for cutting costs wounds his fiancee instead

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Paul," and I have been dating for four years. He has recently started talking about purchasing an engagement ring for me. Paul is well-off, although very frugal, which is how he accumulated most of his wealth.

Paul has been searching online sites for a used ring. He says he "doesn't want to waste his money on a new engagement ring when he can buy a used one." This from a man who didn't think twice about spending thousands of dollars to buy his son a brand-new car or a brand-new boat for himself.

Am I wrong to feel I'm only worth a used engagement ring? This is the most precious gift he could give me—a sign of our love and commitment—and I would cherish it forever. I am deeply hurt and would appreciate your thoughts on how to pursue this issue.

FEELING "USED" IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR FEELING "USED": There's a difference between frugal and just plain cheap. That Paul would tell you he considers buying you a new engagement ring is a WASTE shows insensitivity to your feelings. Would he also prefer that your wedding gown come from a thrift store? I know it has been four years, but please take a moment, step back and ask yourself how stingy Paul is about other things.

Obviously, you are a romantic, and Paul is pragmatic to the core. He wants his dollar to stretch as far as it will go. But shopping online for a used ring is risky. Unless he buys from a reputable dealer, he could wind up paying the price of a diamond for a lovely zircon.

Paul may seem like a "gem," but is this the way you want to live the rest of your life? Bear in mind that while not every woman would be averse to wearing a pre-owned diamond that was recycled and reset, you do not appear to be one of them.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: How can my daughter broach the subject of her matron of honor's "beard"? We're not talking about a few hairs here, but a growth that would make some young men envious. The wedding is coming up soon, and the bride and groom are concerned how it will look in the wedding pictures, but they don't want to hurt her feelings.

I, for one, have been taking quick swipes with my razor for years, and my whiskers haven't grown back thicker or darker, and I only have to do it once or twice a week. Ladies, if unwanted facial hair embarrasses you, forget the myth that shaving will make it worse. You don't have to lather up like a man at the sink, and no one has to know it but you.

BRIDE'S MOM, ST. LOUIS, MO.

DEAR MOM: Before the wedding, schedule a "spa" day for the women in the bridal party -- manicures, pedicures, waxing. When you get there, invite the "bearded lady" to join you in getting any excess facial hair removed. If she sees she isn't alone, she may go for it. And if she's resistant, your wedding photographer can always "Photoshop" the fur away.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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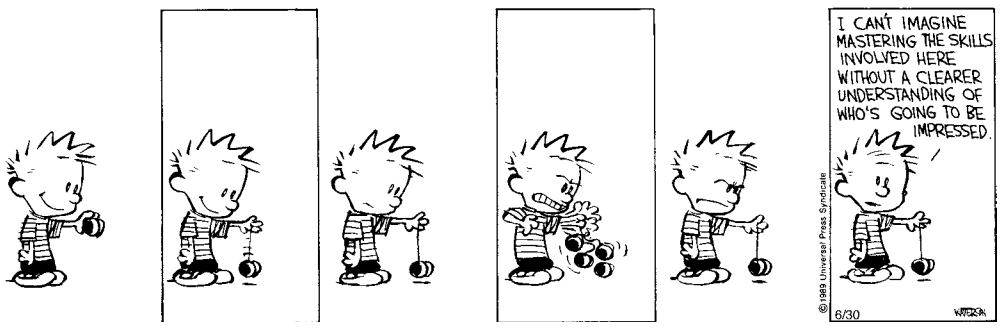
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I CAN'T IMAGINE MASTERING THE SKILLS INVOLVED HERE WITHOUT A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF WHO'S GOING TO BE IMPRESSED.
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6/30
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By Jim Davis

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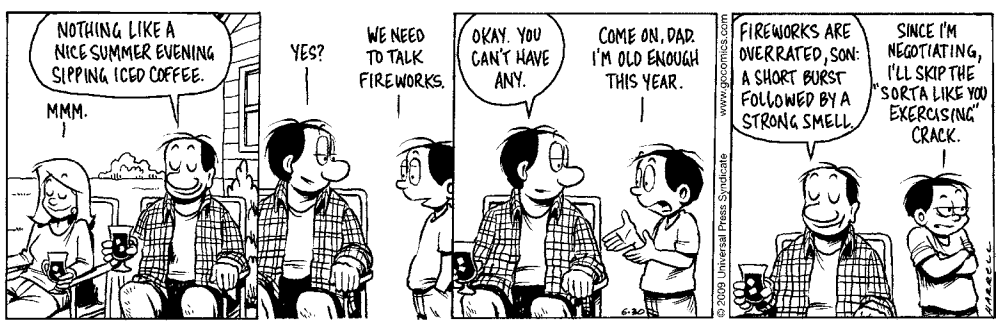
DID YOU KNOW THE LINOLEUM HAD A PATTERN?
AND WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SAW PAISLEY?
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


NOTHING LIKE A NICE SUMMER EVENING SIPPING ICED COFFEE.
MMM.
YES?
WE NEED TO TALK FIREWORKS.
OKAY. YOU CAN'T HAVE ANY.
COME ON, DAD. I'M OLD ENOUGH THIS YEAR.
FIREWORKS ARE OVERRATED, SON: A SHORT BURST FOLLOWED BY A STRONG SMELL.
SINCE I'M NEGOTIATING, I'LL SKIP THE "SORTA LIKE YOU EXERCISING" CRACK.
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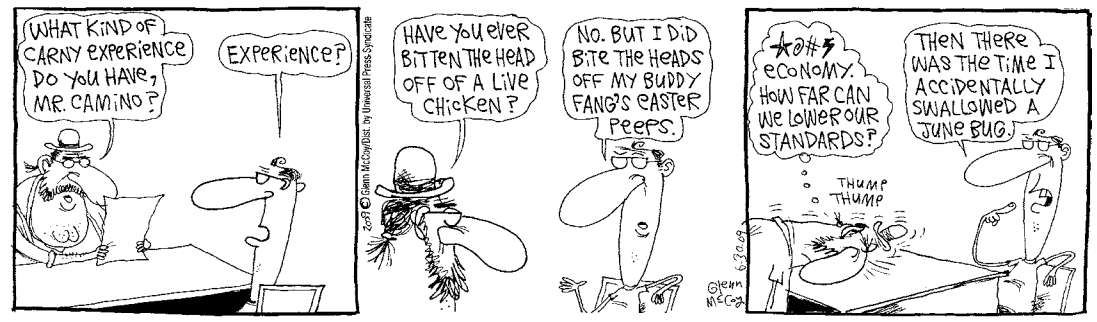
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WHAT KIND OF CARNY EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE, MR. CAMINO?
EXPERIENCE?
HAVE YOU EVER BITTEN THE HEAD OFF OF A LIVE CHICKEN?
NO. BUT I DID BITE THE HEADS OFF MY BUDDY FANG'S EASTER PEEPS.
ECONOMY. HOW FAR CAN WE LOWER OUR STANDARDS?
THEN THERE WAS THE TIME I ACCIDENTALLY SWALLOWED A JUNE BUG.
THUMP THUMP
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6.30.09
Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Guitars' kin
5 Conclude
8 Audio equipment brand
12 Punjabi believer
13 Old French coin
14 Maleficence
15 Basin accessory
16 Pavement
18 Motorcycle attachment
20 Irritates
21 Distort
22 Distant
23 Laurel's partner
26 Courtroom conference
30 "Xanadu" band
31 Monkey suit
32 "SNL" alumna Gasteyer
33 Swing band musician
36 Fop
38 Nineteen
39 Playground pastime
40 Conspiracy theories
43 Gun of a sort
47 Duck
49 Hodgepodge
50 Epidermis
51 Owns
52 Trademark symbol
53 Camper's shelter
54 TV Tarzan Ron
55 College VIP

DOWN
1 Employs
2 New Zealand bird
3 Supplemented, with "out"
4 Crafty
5 English composition
6 Bleak, as film
7 Flop
8 Caveat word
9 Elliptical
10 Ledge
11 BPOE members
17 "Zounds!"
19 Weep
22 Repair
23 Cock and bull?
24 Foreman competitor
25 Scepter
26 Sky sight
27 Proscribe
28 Moreover
29 Shaft from 26-Down
31 April 15 payment
34 Range
35 Fail to hit
36 Mid-June honoree
37 Ancient
39 In one's cups
40 "Hey, you!"
41 Similar to
42 Valhalla bigwig
43 Close up tight
44 Lotion additive
45 Latvia's capital
46 Armstrong's destination
48 Definite article

Solution time: 21 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 6-30

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15				■	16			17				
18				19			■	20				
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40	41	42			■	43				44	45	46
47					48			■	49			
50				■	51				52			
53				■	54			■	55			

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fantasia Barrino, 25; Mike Tyson, 43; Vincent D'Onofrio, 50; Leonard Whiting, 59

Happy Birthday: Tighten your belt and stop being so generous. Assess your situation and correct anything that has you worried. Making a move to lower your overhead will serve you well in years to come. You have to be a little hard-nosed to stay on top. You will set a standard for all the people you love to learn and prosper from in the future. Your numbers are 8, 13, 16, 20, 25, 37, 40

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*: Don't be too quick to forget past encounters. Someone who can help you out now will come to mind. You will be able to motivate and inspire people to get involved in something you believe in. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*: You may be offered help but keep in mind that nothing is for free. Find out ahead of time what is expected in return. Negotiations will go well but don't rely on a handshake -- get what you want in writing. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: You can set a precedent that will give you the edge and impress anyone watching you work through challenging times. Your quick response to whatever you face will enable you to outmaneuver anyone challenging you. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*: Look around you: If things aren't the way you want, consider making some improvements. Take a trip or visit someone who can give you some options. Stop procrastinating about what you know you should be doing in order to improve your life. ✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A moneymaking deal will entice you. Put any extra cash you have into your home or something that will promote your own talents, not someone else's. Something you have to offer is worth more than you think. Don't sell yourself short. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: Success is within your reach but it will take action, not talk, to get to where you want to go. Put your plans into motion and refuse to let anyone slow you down with questions and conjecture. Forward thinking and actions will lead to advancement. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can only get to the bottom of things if you ask direct questions. Your greatest fear is unwarranted and, once you realize this, you can make decisions that will improve your outlook and your future. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: Don't complicate matters. Keep your thoughts a secret and go about your business. You can make some interesting changes at home that will help you raise your property value or enable you to work from home and make extra cash. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*: Promote your own interests by joining groups that can help you further your goals. The people you meet will have good suggestions and will probably offer to lend a helping hand. Don't be shy when there is so much to gain. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: You have to sort through your emotional issues in order to think straight when forced to make an important decision. There will be no time to rethink your strategy or change direction. A commitment can be made that will alter your status forever. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: If you pile too much on your plate, you will fall short of your expectations. Focus on getting the job done. Not reaching your set goals will cost you financially, emotionally and physically. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: Prepare for whatever you have to do carefully. If you don't fully understand what's expected of you, problems will arise and the chance to get ahead will be limited. Don't pretend to know something you don't. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are inventive, imaginative and intuitive. You have an interest in the unknown. You are diplomatic and have leadership qualities.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1			7					
	5	9			8		6	4
8	4			9		3		1
7	8							
9								6
							8	2
2		1		5			3	8
4	7		2			1	9	
					6			7

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Monday's SUDOKU Answer

9	3	2	4	1	6	5	8	7
6	7	8	9	2	5	3	4	1
5	4	1	3	7	8	2	9	6
7	8	6	2	4	3	1	5	9
4	2	9	1	5	7	8	6	3
1	5	3	6	8	9	4	7	2
2	6	7	8	3	4	9	1	5
3	9	4	5	6	1	7	2	8
8	1	5	7	9	2	6	3	4

Difficulty Level ★ 6/29

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PROTECTING THE FROG **Solution: 7 letters**

E	S	L	L	A	C	I	T	A	V	(L)	Y	S	C	S
M	A	E	E	S	D	A	O	T	S	(E)	N	N	L	P
A	R	V	L	S	U	G	N	U	F	(A)	U	A	I	O
R	A	C	R	O	H	C	P	U	O	(P)	M	I	M	T
S	R	T	I	A	P	O	I	O	R	I	B	B	A	T
U	E	S	W	P	L	D	M	T	N	A	E	I	T	E
P	N	E	O	E	O	P	A	A	A	D	R	H	E	D
I	I	V	T	N	N	R	I	T	T	U	S	P	A	E
A	U	A	E	L	E	N	T	S	E	U	Q	M	G	F
L	Q	E	P	A	A	E	B	L	H	S	R	A	A	I
E	E	L	P	M	G	K	R	O	O	A	T	E	H	L
G	L	I	A	D	U	L	E	G	R	B	L	S	P	D
S	R	N	U	N	G	J	A	S	N	E	M	L	O	L
H	A	B	I	T	A	T	D	E	E	F	A	Y	O	I
P	H	D	E	R	E	G	N	A	D	N	E	L	S	W

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Algae, Amphibians, Animals, Anura, Aquatic, Atelopus, Boreal, Budgett, Call, Climate, Endangered, Feed, Fungus, Green, Habitat, Harlequin, Jump, Lakes, Larvae, Leap, Leaves, Legs, Marsupial, Mature, Newt, Numbers, Oophaga, Ornate Horned, Panamanian, Ponds, Rare, Save, Shallow, Spotted, Sylvatica, Symbol, Tadpoles, Tests, Toads, Tropic, Wildlife

Yesterday's Answer: Symbolic

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Brazil rallies to beat US in Confed Cup final

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Next year's World Cup just got a little more interesting.

Forget that the final score of the Confederations Cup final Sunday was Brazil 3, the United States 2. The Americans proved their upset of top-ranked Spain was no fluke, dominating the Brazilians in the first half and giving the five-time World Cup champions a test to the final whistle.

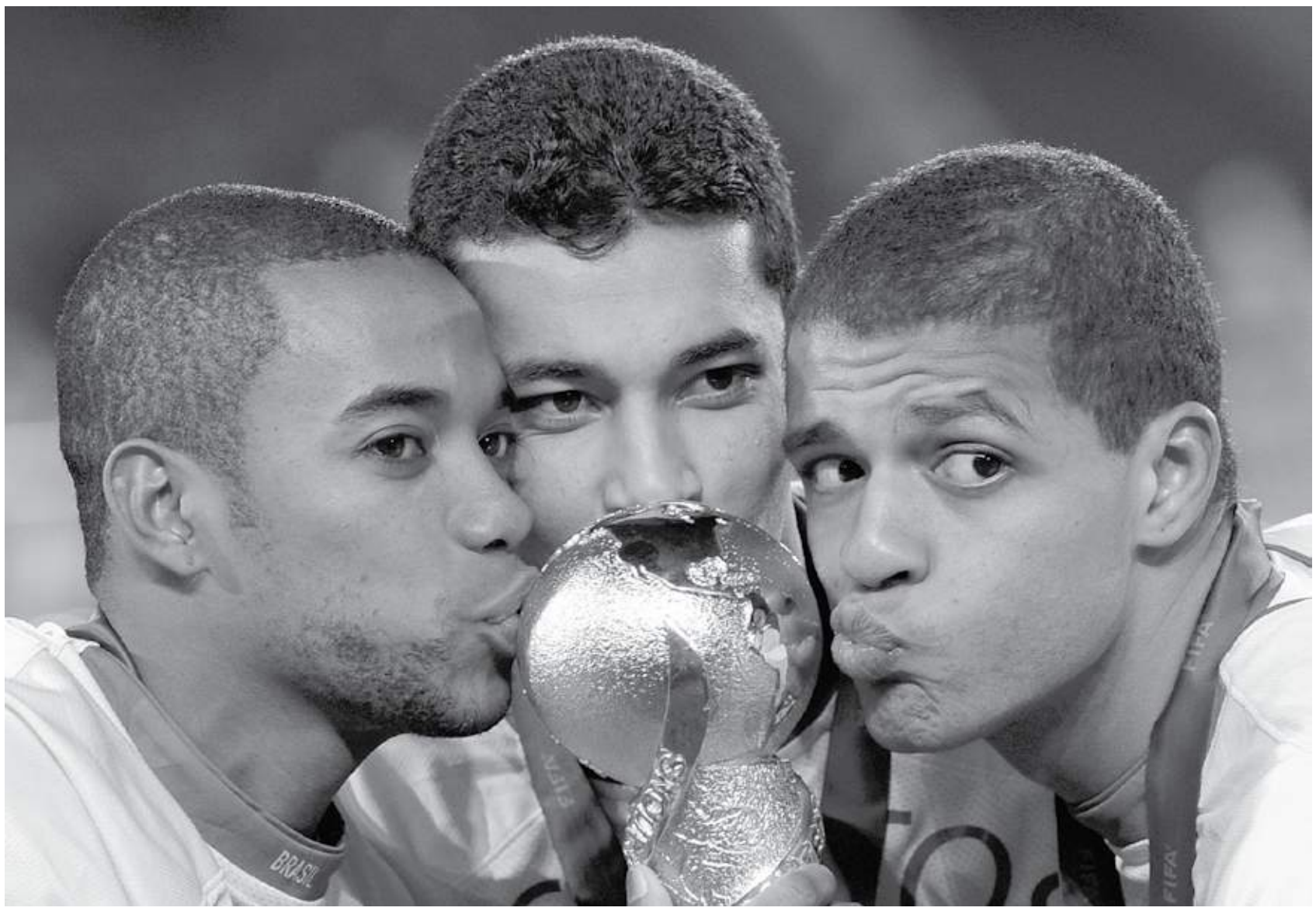
"This disappointment's going to be here for a while," captain Carlos Bocanegra said. "But it'll go away, and what we can take away from this is the confidence that we played so well against the big teams here. This is a difficult tournament, we did well here and got to the finals and we showed that we belong.

"We're not just going to be a push-over in the World Cup when we come down here."

Luis Fabiano scored twice for Brazil, and Lucio added the third in the 84th minute to give Brazil its second straight Confederations Cup title and third overall.

The United States has beaten Brazil once in 15 games, and it was just 10 days ago that the Brazilians hung a 3-0 rout on the Americans in group play of the tournament that had the critics piling on and some calling for coach Bob Bradley's job.

The U.S. men became a different team in the aftermath. They beat Spain to reach their first final at a FIFA tournament. And for the first 45 minutes Sunday, it was Brazil that looked like the beaten team.



AP

Brazil's Robinho, left, Andre Santos, center, and Felipe Melo kiss the Confederations Cup trophy after defeating the US 3-2 in their Confederations Cup final soccer match at Ellis Park Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa, Sunday, June 28, 2009.

Brazil's usually fluid offense created few opportunities and was constantly stymied by the U.S. defense and goalkeeper Tim Howard.

Meanwhile, the Americans were relentless in their attack on a nervous-looking Brazil defense, with Landon Donovan working hard to give his team several scoring chances.

Just 10 minutes into the game, Jonathan Spector sprinted down the right side and sent a low cross into the area. Clint Dempsey, who had plenty of room to maneuver, raised his right leg and put just enough of a touch on the ball to alter the direction and send it past a diving Julio Cesar.

Donovan then got possession at his own end shortly after Maicon had sent in a corner for Brazil from the right. The United States midfielder ran up the middle, passed to Charlie Davies and then reclaimed the ball from his teammate before beating Julio Cesar.

"Leading up to the game, we showed a lot of heart, a lot of character," Howard said. "We gave them everything they could handle, took a 2-0 lead and deserved every piece of that lead."

There is a reason Brazil has won so many titles over the years, though, and it wasn't about to let another slip away.

Luis Fabiano started the comeback in the 46th minute. The striker collected a pass from Ramires before turning and shooting past defender Jay DeMerit for his fourth goal of the tournament.

"We gave up the first goal so early in second half," Bradley said. "We really put ourselves in a tough spot."

Luis Fabiano added a tournament-leading fifth goal to equalize in the 74th, heading in a rebound after Kaka's cross was kicked against the crossbar by Robinho.

The Americans caught a break in the 60th when Kaka headed a cross from Andre Santos to the near post. Howard stepped back into his goal and knocked the shot off the underside of the crossbar and then grabbed it safely in his arms. Kaka appealed, arguing that the ball crossed the line before Howard was able to get to it, and television replays indicated he was correct.

"I don't know whether the ball crossed the goal line," Kaka said. "It would have been fantastic for me to score a legitimate headed goal."

It wouldn't matter, with Lucio delivering the decisive goal in the 84th when he headed a corner kick from Elano past Howard. Brazil has won eight matches in a row, and is unbeaten in 16.

The Americans were downcast after the game, with Dempsey sobbing openly as he walked to get his medal.

"This is a massive learning experience. You always hope to do the most learning when you win, but you probably learn more by losing," Donovan said. "If we're smart and we take what we should from this game, we can progress. And that's what we're trying to do."

They'll see soon enough.

The United States begins defense of the Gold Cup, the championship of North and Central America and the Caribbean, on Saturday in Seattle, though only four players from the Confederations Cup are on that roster. Then comes an Aug. 12 World Cup qualifier against Mexico at Azteca Stadium, where the United States has never won.

The United States is only two points behind group leader Costa Rica in qualifying, with the top three teams earning trips to South Africa.

"We're at the point where we don't want respect," Donovan said. "We want to win."

In the third-place match, Spain fought back to beat host South Africa 3-2 after extra time in Rustenburg.

Teens shake up on women's draw at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—There was a grizzled look to the men's field, at least by tennis standards, after one week at Wimbledon.

On the women's side, youth was being served—and whacking return winners.

Those reaching the gentlemen's round of 16 included six players age 27 or older, among them Tommy Haas, 31, and Radek Stepanek and Ivo Karlovic, both 30. The message: When it comes to the brief lawn tennis season, experience pays.

"Grass definitely takes some getting used to," said Andy Roddick, 26, who reached Week 2 for the fifth time in nine Wimbledons. "If you've played on it for years and years and years and years, I think the adjustment period will be probably a little bit quicker."

While returning the 130 mph serves common in the men's game requires a big adjustment on grass, novices sometimes thrive on the women's side. Among those reaching the ladies' fourth round were 17-year-old American Melanie Oudin in her Wimbledon debut, and 19-year-old Sabine Lisicki of Germany, who won a match on grass for the first time Tuesday.

"I just can't believe I'm in the fourth round," Lisicki said.

Two other teenagers made it - 19-year-old Victoria Azarenka of Belarus and 18-year-old Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark.

The youngest remaining player was also the most surprising. Oudin arrived in London with a ranking of 124 and an 0-2 record in Grand Slam matches, but she beat No. 29-seeded Sybille Bammer in the first round and No. 6 Jelena Jankovic in the third.

Oudin declined to grade her level of excitement.

"I'm going to answer that after the tournament's over," she said, "because it could get higher as the tournament goes on."

Oudin's so young her earliest Wimbledon memory is watching Venus and Serena Williams on TV. The sisters are still very much active—an all-Williams final Saturday is a distinct possibility.

Oudin's win over former No. 1 Jankovic was the most surprising result of the first week. Another upset: The new retractable roof on Centre Court was unused during the first half of the fortnight, causing snickers in the locker room.

"The common joke has been that they haven't had to use it yet," Roddick said. "All this money, and the weather has been nice."

There's still a long way to go, with a parade of talent Monday, when all 16 fourth-round matches were scheduled.

"It's a good ticket, I guess, if you're a tennis fan," Roddick said. "Even if you don't get on Centre, your grounds pass will do just fine."

The showcase matchup was five-time champion Roger Federer against Robin Soderling. Federer completed a career Grand Slam by beating Soderling in the French Open final three weeks ago.

On the women's side, Russians made up a quarter of the final 16. On the men's side, 13 countries remained represented, reflecting the global reach of the sport.

One unlikely survivor of the first week was Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain, who needed a wild-card invitation to get into the tournament. At 29, the former No. 1 has slipped to 70th in the rankings after a series of injuries.

Another surprise was No. 46-ranked Dudi Sela, the first Israeli man to reach the fourth round at Wimbledon since his idol, Amos Mansdorf, did it 20 years ago.

"It's very special for me," Sela said. "Back home I think, for a long time, people were waiting for someone, for a man, to be in the fourth round."

Sela became the fourth Israeli man to reach the round of 16 in a Grand Slam tournament. He did it on grass despite growing up playing almost exclusively on hard courts and being smaller than a lot of top pros—he's listed at 5 feet 9.

"The ball is bouncing lower on the grass, so maybe I'm in a better position than other players," Sela said.

At the other extreme is the 6-foot-10 Karlovic, long considered dangerous at Wimbledon because of his serve. He had 102 aces in the first three rounds.

"With my serve, I feel OK," he said. Smiling, he added, "If I can win with only one shot, I'm a genius."

Karlovic's opponent Monday was No. 7-seeded Fernando Verdasco. Sela was to play No. 4 Novak Djokovic, and Roddick was to face No. 20 Tomas Berdych.

On the women's side, Oudin's opponent was No. 11 Agnieszka Radwanska. Serena Williams was to face Daniela Hantuchova.

Perry wins Travelers Championship with record 258

TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP

CROMWELL, Conn. (AP)—There was no Masters-style meltdown Sunday for Kenny Perry.

Perry shot 63 to finish with a tournament-record 258 and win the Travelers Championship by three strokes over Paul Goydos and David Toms, two other golfers in their 40s.

The 48-year old Perry, whose bogey-bogey finish at Augusta kept him from winning the Masters in April, tied a course record with a 61 Thursday and led after each of the first two rounds here. But, he trailed by a stroke to Goydos heading into the final round.

He responded by shooting a 32 on the front nine and was up by five strokes heading to the par-4 15th.

Goydos, 45, made a 20-foot eagle putt from the fringe on 15 and birdied 16. But he missed his birdie putt on 17 to the right.

Perry birdied 15, and put the tournament away by making birdie on 17 after hitting a 164-yard approach to within 8 feet.

"Everyone kind of asks about the Augusta hangover deal," he said. "I guess I kind of shoved that aside a little bit. So that makes me feel pretty good."

Perry acknowledged he was thinking about the Masters as he played the back nine, and told himself to play aggressive.

"I knew that I had to keep making birdies," he said. "I wasn't going to let up. I wasn't going to play defensive golf. I learned something from that mistake."

Kenny Perry poses with the trophy after winning the Travelers Championship golf tournament at TPC at River Highlands golf course in Cromwell, Conn., Sunday, June 28, 2009.

AP

Goydos said he felt he needed to shoot a 63 to win the tournament, but didn't start playing well until the 15th hole.

"I don't want to run and hide from that," he said. "He played like a guy who's won 14 times. I played more like a guy who's won twice, especially early in the round."

Goydos made a 40-foot putt on the seventh hole, but gave two shots back when he bogeyed the par-3 eighth. Perry hit his tee shot to within 3 feet of the pin, and made birdie.

He went four strokes up by sinking a 16-foot birdie on the 10th, while Goydos had another bogey.

Perry takes home just over $1 million with the victory, and has now won five times in just over a year, the most of any player on tour. He has 12 top-10 finishes over that span while making every cut. His 258 is tied for fourth-best 72-hole score in Tour history. It beats the old tournament record of 259 set by Tim Norris is 1982.

The win also moves Perry to the front of the FedEx Cup standings. It was his 14th career victory, and he said he's hoping to get 20 wins before he retires.

"It's a pretty unrealistic goal," he said. I just kind of threw that number out there to see everyone's eyes roll into the back of their heads."

Toms, 42, shot his third 65 of the tournament to finish tied with Goydos at 19-under par. He missed a 12-foot birdie putt on 17, after making birdies at 15 and 16 to put himself into contention.

"I didn't get off to the kind of start that I felt like needed to put pressure on the guys that were ahead of me," Toms said. "I really felt like I needed to get under par pretty quickly to at least give them something to think about and ultimately just got too far behind on the back nine."

Ben Curtis, Ryan Moore and Hunter Mahan all finished two strokes behind Goydos and Toms to tie for fourth at 17-under.

"You'd probably think that anywhere from 15 to 20-under would probably win it. I watched the scoreboard a little bit. You got to kind of focus on what everybody's doing, to see what kind of shots you have to hit."

Scott Verplank shot a round-best 62 Sunday, one off the course record that he shares, and finished tied for ninth place at 15-under par.

"I knew I'd shot 61 here a few years ago, so obviously you know, I can get it going on this golf course," he said.

Mariano Rivera earns 500th save, Yankees beat Mets

NEW YORK (AP)—Mariano Rivera earned his 500th save, becoming the second reliever to reach the milestone, as the New York Yankees beat the Mets 4-2 on Sunday night for a Subway Series sweep.

Chien-Ming Wang won for the first time in more than a year and Rivera got four outs, securing the Yankees' fifth consecutive victory—all away from home.

In a twist on a night that belonged to him, Rivera even contributed offensively by drawing a bases-loaded walk from Francisco Rodriguez in the ninth for his first career RBI. It was the third regular-season plate appearance for the 39-year-old closer—and second in five days.

Mark Teixeira hit a two-run double off Livan Hernandez (5-3) in a three-run first.

Braves 2, Red Sox 1

At Atlanta, homers by Chipper Jones and Garret Anderson carried the Atlanta Braves past Boston 2-1 on Sunday, preventing a Red Sox sweep.

Pitching dominated the weekend series, with the teams combining for only nine runs in three games.

Rookie Tommy Hanson threw six scoreless innings, limiting Boston to two hits on another sweltering day at Turner Field and extending his scoreless streak to 20 innings.

Jones hit his first homer since June 8, the defending NL batting champion's average slipping from .335 to .289 during his slide.

Tigers 4, Astros 3

At Houston, Brandon Inge hit a two-run homer off Jose Valverde with two outs in the ninth inning as the Tigers averted a sweep against the Astros.

Kaz Matsui's RBI double off Edwin Jackson in the seventh gave Houston a 3-2 lead.

Tim Byrdak retired two batters in relief of Russ Ortiz in the eighth and Valverde (0-2) started the ninth, looking for his seventh save. Placido Polanco and Miguel Cabrera each flied out before Valverde walked Marcus Thames.

Inge then drove a 1-0 pitch over the left-field wall for his 18th home run.

Royals 3, Pirates 2

At Pittsburgh, Kansas City Royals kept the Pirates from sweeping an interleague series for the first time since 2001.

David DeJesus hit a solo homer off Charlie Morton (0-1) and drove in two runs to support Zack Greinke (10-3), who gave up seven hits in 6 1-3 innings ahead of the 59-minute rain delay.

Rays 5, Marlins 2

At St. Petersburg, Florida, David Price allowed one run over 6 1-3 innings as the Rays beat the Marlins to complete a three-game sweep.

Price gave up two hits, five walks and had four strikeouts. The first overall pick in the 2007 amateur draft was coming off a pair of losses in which the left-hander was touched for 15 runs and 17 hits in 11 1-3 innings.

B.J. Upton homered for the Rays, who have won five in a row.

Reds 8, Indians 1

At Cleveland, Brandon Phillips celebrated his 28th birthday by leading the Reds over his former team.

Phillips broke out of a 1-for-16 slump with three hits, three runs and three RBIs as the Reds took two of three from their Ohio rivals to move back to .500 overall. Ramon Hernandez also had three hits and three RBIs for Cincinnati.

Phillies 5, Blue Jays 4

At Toronto, Chase Utley hit a two-run triple as the Phillies held on to edge the Blue Jays.

Chan Ho Park pitched two perfect innings before the Blue Jays threatened in the eighth against Ryan Madson. A single, an error and a two-out intentional walk loaded the bases for pinch-hitter Russ Adams, who popped out.

Nationals 5, Orioles 3

At Baltimore, John Lannan took a four-hitter into the eighth inning and Adam Dunn hit a colossal home run as the Nationals defeated the Orioles to avoid a three-game sweep.

Willie Harris also homered for the Nationals, and Josh Willingham had three hits and scored twice.

White Sox 6, Cubs 0

At Chicago, John Danks pitched seven shutout innings and Chris Getz stole home against Carlos Zambrano as the Chicago White Sox got another run on a bases-loaded infield fly rule to beat the Cubs.

Danks (6-6) allowed four hits and reliever Scott Linebrink completed the shutout as the White Sox won two of three before sellout crowds at U.S. Cellular Field. The teams split two games at Wrigley Field last week and still have a makeup game to play from a rainout in that earlier series.

Twins 6, Cardinals 2

At St. Louis, Francisco Liriano pitched seven strong innings and Justin Morneau hit a three-run home run in the Twins' win.

Joe Mauer singled his first two at bats for the Twins to hike his average to .400 before a double-play ball, a groundout and a strikeout dropped him to .394. Jason Kubel had three hits and an RBI and Brendan Harris had two RBIs to help Minnesota take two of three from St. Louis.

Mariners 4, Dodgers 2

At Los Angeles, Jose Lopez had three hits including a two-run double as the Mariners beat the Dodgers.

Lopez, in his fourth game back with the Mariners after spending the previous six on the bereavement list because of the illness and subsequent death of his sister in Venezuela, was 8 for 12 with four RBIs in the interleague series.

Rockies 3, Athletics 1

At Oakland, California, Aaron Cook took a shutout into the ninth inning and won his fifth consecutive start as the Rockies defeated the Athletics.

Chris Iannetta, Carlos Gonzalez and Seth Smith each drove in a run for the Rockies, who completed their first sweep of the A's and their fourth sweep in June.

Angels 12, Diamondbacks 8

At Phoenix, Gary Matthews Jr. stole home and hit a three-run double as the Angels beat the Diamondbacks.

The Angels nearly blew a seven-run fifth-inning. Leading 9-2 in the fifth, they let the NL West cellar dwellers draw within 9-8 in the sixth before the bullpen closed the door. Los Angeles swept the three-game series and wrapped up interleague play with a majors-leading 14-4 record, including going 8-1 on the road.

Padres 2, Rangers 0

At Arlington, Texas, Chad Gaudin allowed one hit over eight scoreless innings and Scott Hairston snapped an 0-for-17 slide with a homer as the Padres won their first series in a month.

Gaudin gave up a single to Michael Young in the first and then retired 23 of the last 25 batters he faced, including the last 13.

Giants 7, Brewers 0

At Milwaukee, Ryan Sadowski scattered four hits over six scoreless innings in his major league debut as the Giants avoided a three-game sweep.

Matt Downs hit his first major league homer and Nate Schierholtz had four hits, including a homer for the Giants, who snapped a six-game skid in Milwaukee after watching a 6-4 lead in the bottom of the ninth crumble Saturday night.

Matansa hopes to keep women's team intact

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Matansa Football Club hoisted this year's perpetual trophy in the 2009 NMIFA Women's Recreational Football League and hopes to have the club's name engraved in the hardware for several seasons with the same roster.

"Everyone on our team is a team player. Our passing skills and teamwork are some of our greatest strengths. I hope that we will be able to stay together as a team for many seasons to come," said Lindsay Davis, who scored the winning goal in Matansa 1-0 triumph over MP United in the finals of the recreational league last June 20 at the CPA Field.

Davis connected on a penalty kick after MP United was called for a handball near the penalty box around the 15th minute in the second half.

Joining Davis on the champion team are Tawny Barcinas, Jamie Beavis, Naomi Cabrera, ThinThin Conlon, Elisa Fejeran, Tahlia Hideo, Natalie Hill, Noi Horey, Mara Khorram, Nicole LeBlanc, Melody Matson, Madisa Onni, Madison Smith, Alleny Tenorio, Michiko Tenorio, Jojie Vallo, Jacque Wonenberg, and Janna Young.

"Our team had a great mix of skill, age and experience. We had seven high school-aged players and we had two players who were new to soccer," Davis said.

Matansa finished second in the double-round robin regular season of the league with its 2-1-3 win-loss-draw record. Paire Football Club topped the regular season a 4-1-1 slate, while Independent Football Club (1-2-3) and MP United (1-3-2) placed third and fourth respectively.

MPU stunned Paire in the semifinals, 1-0, while Matansa downed IFC in the other semis pairing, 4-1.

Games in the regular season were often decided by a close margin and Davis attributed these tight matches to the balance of competition in the league.

"It was a very balanced league. All the games were within a point or two of each other. I think any of the teams could have made it to the championship," Davis said.

"Players were allowed to choose which club they want to play for. For some of the clubs, there are a lot of youth coaches who are also soccer players. The women's committee put a cap on the number of national team players allowed on a team," she added.

Davis is a member of the CNMI Women's National Team and this was the fourth time she became part of the champion team.

"This was the seventh season on the trophy. I have played in four out of the seven teams that have won the trophy. It feels good to be on the winning team, but the best feeling is being out on the pitch, playing with a bunch of women who also love the game," she said.

"Thank you to Fiesta for sponsoring our team, thank you, too to Christina Smith the secretary general for Matansa for making so many things possible. Thank you to Jerry Tan for his unwavering support and commitment to the development of women's soccer on this island," Davis added.

JUNIOR

From Page 28

er's choice to secure a World Series stint for the CNMI.

A six-run bottom of the third gave the CNMI bets cushion to thwart their rivals and make it to the World Series for the sixth time. The Commonwealth's sluggers were in the World Series from 2001 to 2005 before they lost to Indonesia in 2006.

Aldelbert Lizama started for the CNMI Junior Leagues, pitched in four innings, allowed five hits, gave up four runs, and had only one error. He walked three and struck out six.

Lizama also sparked the CNMI's offense at the bottom of the third inning, hitting a two-run single that drove Henry Rabauliman and Christian Mizer home. Henry Rabauliman, Mizer, and Brian Camacho had one-run single each and the CNMI scored its sixth run in the third inning on a Guam error.

Tenorio began the CNMI's World Series bid with a solo homer at the top of the first inning, while Jeremy Rabauliman scored the Commonwealth's second run on Ricardo Dela Cruz's single to lead Guam, 2-1.

Guam then had a three-run top of the second to steal the lead, 4-2, before the CNMI regained the lead after three complete innings, 8-4. The CNMI was held to only one run in the next three innings with Tenorio scoring off Guam's error, allowing Guam to tie the game at the top of the last inning.

Tenorio, Dela Cruz, and Mizer went 2-for-4 and combined for four RBIs. Lizama was only 1-for-3, but had two RBIs.

Thelma Mizer is the CNMI Junior All-Stars manager, while Oliver Secharmidal and Bernard Cabrera as coach and assistant coach, respectively.

The CNMI Junior All-Stars will go to Taylor, Michigan for the World Series set from Aug. 16 to 22.

BIG LEAGUE
Guam 10, CNMI 4

The CNMI Big League All-Stars failed to defend their title and earn a return trip to the World Series after bowing to Guam, 4-10.

Guam had a good start, leading at 5-0 after one complete inning, as the CNMI was erratic on defense. Guam scored three runs on CNMI's miscues.

The CNMI also could not get its offense going and made it to the scoreboard only at the bottom of the third inning on Ryan Lisua's sacrifice fly that drove Anthony Aldan home.

The dethroned champions, who won over the Philippines last year, were without runs in the next two innings and trailed, 10-1, after five and a half innings.

A three-run bottom of the six kept the CNMI's World Series bid alive, but relief pitcher Jay Joe saved the day for Guam with two strikeouts at the bottom of the last inning.

With the CNMI behind by six, 4-10, Aldan led off for the Commonwealth and grounded out. The CNMI was called for the second out after Juan Iguel came up with an empty swing. Lisua was next at bat, singled, and stole second base, but he was left stranded there after David Camacho also ended up with an empty swing for the third out.

RANGERS

From Page 28

for a 17-9 lead. The Rangers reached home plate five times in that inning on the D-9ers' errors and had their lone earned run on Taisacan's double.

Taisacan made two more RBIs at the top of the eight inning with his single driving Celis and Pete Tomokane home. Tomokane and J.J. Laniyo had a one-run single apiece to make it a 21-9 count.

A Mel Sakisat two-run triple at the bottom of the eight and one-run single apiece from Jeff Tenorio and Robert Bansil at the bottom of the ninth were not enough to bring the D-9ers back into the game.

Taisacan went 5-of-6 at the plate for the Rangers and made one double, one triple and four RBIs.

Sakisat led the D-9ers' losing cause, hitting perfect at the plate, 5-of-5. He posted one triple and one double and also had four RBIs.

HALF

From Page 28

obwemal took the third spot with her 587 total (136, 147, 151, and 153) and 146.75 norm.

Troy Verdaguer was fourth with his 477 total (122, 86, 137, and 132) and 119.25 average.

Zapanta took home $15 and a Waoika gift basket from Micronesian Brokers, Inc. for his win, while McKenzie pocketed $10. Yarobwemal and Verdaguer earned $5 apiece.

In Day 1 of the King and Queen of the Lanes, Robert Talavera and Diane Chong took pole positions with rolls of 902 and 672, respectively.

Talavera has a whopping a 103-pin lead against fellow perfect gamer Raymond Angeles after putting together a four-game series of 177, 264, 229, and 232—good for an eye-popping average of 225.5.

Angeles (759), Percy Omechalang (742), Raymond Zapanta (742), and Ruselle Zapanta (650) round out the Top 5 in the men's division.

On the women's side, Chong obliterated 164, 186, 154, and 168 pins in four games to finish with a 168 average. She was followed by Emi Williams (599), Gigi Zapanta (592), Carol McKenzie (587), and Cora Muna (587).

The second round of the June King and Queen of the Lanes was held last night, but results were still unavailable as of press time.

FIESTA

From Page 28

the fourth quarter before rain halted the game. It resumed last Saturday with Fiesta stealing the win, 72-67.

Jon March Ong paced Fiesta's win over MBI, tallying 15 points, while Ferdie De La Torre added 14. R.J. Nonato scored 27 points for MBI, which dropped to a 3-7 slate for fourth place in the team standings.

Before downing MBI, Fiesta also defeated G4S last Friday, 78-67, avenging its first round loss, 60-84.

G4S ended up in a tie with Fiesta with their identical 8-2 slates, but the former took the pennant and the No. 1 seeding in the playoffs due to its higher tiebreak points. Both G4S and Fiesta automatically advanced to the semifinals after their Top 2 finish in the regular season.

The two other games last weekend decided the positions of the four other teams aiming to join Fiesta and G4S in the semifinals.

Advance X-Terminators are seeded third in the playoffs, as they improved to a 6-3 record, following an 82-76 victory over Pacific Trading, Co. last Friday.

The X-Terminators drew 40 big points from Mike Olaitiman to keep the No. 2 spot in the team standings. Olaitiman drilled 12 of his total output in the fourth period to finally thwart the hard-fighting PTC.

PTC led most of the way in the first half before losing steam in the second half and failing to stop Olaitiman from making fastbreak layups.

Last Saturday, it was Shirley's turn to hand PTC another loss. The host cruised to a 129-79 win to move up from last to fifth place.

Shirley's now has a 2-7 slate and is likely to remain in fifth place and face MBI in the first round of the playoffs. Advance will challenge PTC (2-8) in the other pairing in the first round of the playoffs. Winners in the first round will move into the semifinals. The playoff round will start on July 6.

Fradel Sedillo had a breakout game in Shirley's rout of PTC, firing 42 points. Actually, majority of Shirley's players had walks in the park on offense, as PTC was in no mood of halting its foes' scoring run. Jess Nicdao collected 30 points, Dindo Laxa finished with 18, Jener Pineda tallied 17, and Alvin Sarande chipped in 14.

Erlan Lansang top-scored for PTC with 25 points.

Shirley's closed out the second round of the regulation last night, as it collided with Advance. However, results of the game were unavailable at press time.

Saturday's Games

First Game

Fiesta 72 – J. Ong 15, De la Torre 14, Mojar 11, Jinang 10, Esdrelon 6, Garcia 5, Solidum 4, Licop 3, Salazar 2, Moran 2.

MBI 67 – Nonato 27, Sese 17, Barbo 17, Alvarez 2, Cordero 2, Cabrera 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-17, 33-37, 51-52, 72-67.

Second Game

Shirley's 129 – Fradel 42, Nicdao 30, Laxa 18, Pineda 17, Sarande 14, Drilon 4, Galario 2.

PTC 79 – Lansang 25, Garon 15, Camacho 15, Babauta 13, Manganti 5, Cepeda 5.

Scoring by quarters: 32-16, 66-38, 92-55, 129-79.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	46	29	.613	—
New York	43	32	.573	3
Tampa Bay	42	35	.545	5
Toronto	41	36	.532	6
Baltimore	34	41	.453	12

Central Division

Detroit	42	33	.560	—
Minnesota	39	38	.506	4
Chicago	37	38	.493	5
Kansas City	32	42	.432	9 1/2
Cleveland	31	46	.403	12

West Division

Los Angeles	41	32	.562	—
Texas	40	34	.541	1 1/2
Seattle	39	36	.520	3
Oakland	31	43	.419	10 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	39	34	.534	—
New York	37	37	.500	2 1/2
Florida	38	39	.494	3
Atlanta	35	40	.467	5
Washington	22	51	.301	17

Central Division

Milwaukee	40	35	.533	—
St. Louis	41	36	.532	—
Cincinnati	37	37	.500	2 1/2
Chicago	35	37	.486	3 1/2
Houston	35	38	.479	4
Pittsburgh	35	40	.467	5

West Division

Los Angeles	48	28	.632	—
San Francisco	40	34	.541	7
Colorado	40	35	.533	7 1/2
San Diego	33	41	.446	14
Arizona	30	46	.395	18

Yesterday's Games

Cincinnati 8, Cleveland 1
Philadelphia 5, Toronto 4
Atlanta 2, Boston 1
Kansas City 3, Pittsburgh 2
Washington 5, Baltimore 3
Tampa Bay 5, Florida 2
Chicago White Sox 6, Chicago Cubs 0
Detroit 4, Houston 3
Minnesota 6, St. Louis 2
Colorado 3, Oakland 1
L.A. Angels 12, Arizona 8
Seattle 4, L.A. Dodgers 2
N.Y. Yankees 4, N.Y. Mets 2
San Diego 2, Texas 0

TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

CROMWELL, Connecticut (AP) – Scores Sunday after the final round of the $6 million Travelers Championship at the par 70, 6,837-yard at TPC River Highlands:

FINAL ROUND

Kenny Perry (500)	61-68-66-63–258
David Toms (245)	65-65-66-65–261
Paul Goydos (245)	63-68-63-67–261
Ryan Moore (115)	66-65-68-64–263
Hunter Mahan (115)	66-70-63-64–263
Ben Curtis (115)	68-64-66-65–263
Tag Ridings (88)	64-69-65-66–264
Casey Wittenberg (88)	67-65-65-67–264
Scott Verplank (78)	67-68-68-62–265
Bo Van Pelt (78)	66-68-64-67–265
Lucas Glover (65)	65-71-65-65–266
Anthony Kim (65)	66-66-67-67–266
John Merrick (65)	65-67-65-69–266
Bubba Watson (56)	66-68-70-63–267
D.J. Trahan (56)	66-68-68-65–267
Boo Weekley (56)	64-71-67-65–267
Michael Allen (56)	68-65-67-67–267
Zach Johnson (53)	67-68-66-67–268
Kyle Stanley (0)	66-67-70-66–269
Robert Garrigus (51)	66-69-68-66–269
Greg Chalmers (51)	64-71-68-66–269
Bryce Molder (51)	67-66-67-69–269
J.J. Henry (47)	66-70-68-66–270
Michael Letzig (47)	70-66-65-69–270
Chris Riley (47)	67-67-66-70–270
Webb Simpson (42)	67-69-70-65–271
Mathew Goggin (42)	65-69-70-67–271
Kris Blanks (42)	68-66-70-67–271
Johnson Wagner (42)	66-68-70-67–271
Chris Stroud (42)	71-65-68-67–271
Brian Gay (42)	66-68-70-67–271
Nick O'Hern (42)	68-68-67-68–271
Will MacKenzie (42)	68-68-66-69–271
Brendon de Jonge (33)	70-66-70-66–272
James Driscoll (33)	68-69-68-67–272
Jason Bohn (33)	67-70-67-68–272
Nathan Green (33)	69-67-68-68–272
Peter Lonard (33)	67-70-66-69–272
Matt Bettencourt (33)	67-67-69-69–272
Justin Leonard (33)	69-66-68-69–272
Spencer Levin (33)	64-69-67-72–272
Jarrod Lyle (33)	67-67-66-72–272
Ryuji Imada (27)	70-67-70-66–273
Scott McCarron (27)	70-67-70-66–273
Sergio Garcia (27)	67-69-71-66–273
Aaron Watkins (27)	65-67-70-71–273
Mark Brooks (23)	67-68-71-68–274
Bill Lunde (23)	67-68-70-69–274
Brandt Snedeker (23)	67-67-69-71–274
Colt Knost (23)	66-66-69-73–274
Y.E. Yang (17)	65-71-70-69–275
Vijay Singh (17)	66-70-70-69–275
Charlie Wi (17)	66-68-71-70–275
Jay Williamson (17)	67-68-70-70–275
Patrick Sheehan (17)	67-70-67-71–275
Charles Warren (17)	63-72-69-71–275
Joe Durant (17)	67-68-68-72–275
Kevin Streelman (17)	68-66-68-73–275
Ricky Barnes (11)	65-70-72-69–276
D.A. Points (11)	65-72-69-70–276
Chad Campbell (11)	67-69-69-71–276
Aron Price (11)	67-68-70-71–276
Tim Petrovic (6)	68-69-71-69–277
Gary Woodland (6)	69-67-72-69–277
Rich Beem (6)	68-67-72-70–277
Luke List (0)	66-69-70-72–277
Bob Heintz (6)	68-67-68-74–277
Jason Gore (3)	68-68-73-70–279
Chez Reavie (3)	66-67-73-73–279
Marc Leishman (1)	71-66-72-71–280
Jerry Kelly (1)	65-70-73-72–280
Vaughn Taylor (1)	69-68-72-73–282

(FedExCup points in parentheses)

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

SHIRLEY'S STANDINGS

G4S	8	2
Fiesta	8	2
Advance	6	3
MBI	3	7
PTC	3	7
Shirley's	1	8

Roque Celis Fundraising Softball Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

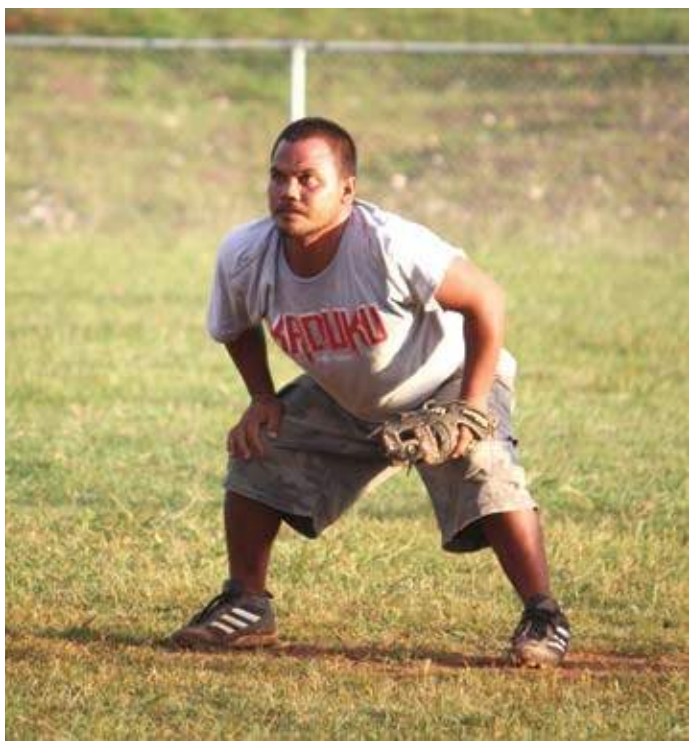
Pitcher Ray Aldan of Ur Balls catches the ball during their finals game against Yo'Mama in the Roque Celis Fundraising Softball Tournament last Sunday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Yo' Mama's Jerry Ayuyu delivers a pitch during Game 2 of their title showdown against Ur Balls.

Yo' Mama's Joey Dela Cruz is safe on third base, as Ur Balls' Kyle Kaipat still waits for the ball.

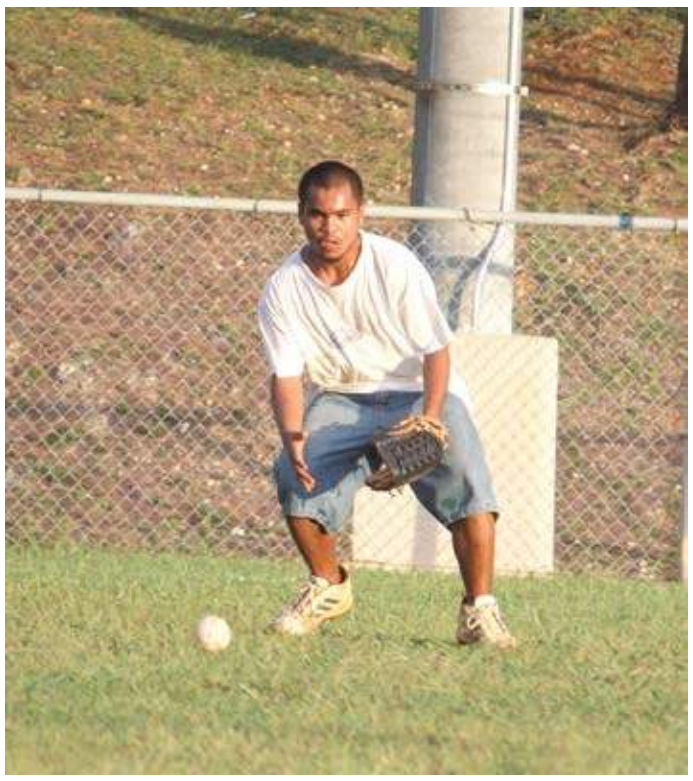
Yo' Mama centerfielder Ray Cepeda waits for the pitch and later made a solo homer in the first inning.

Ur Balls third baseman Kyle Kaipat picks up a grounder.



Yo' Mama second baseman Phil Celis in a defensive stance.

Ur Balls second baseman tags a Yo' Mama runner out at the bottom of the second inning.



Ur Balls centerfielder J.D. Sablan is a few meters short of picking up a base hit from Jerry Ayuyu.

Janice Camacho and B.J. Attao exchange hi-fives after the latter hit a solo homer.

Yo' Mama's Skayp Palacios swings at the top of the second inning.

Brazil rallies to beat US in Confed Cup final

Forget that the final score of the Confederations Cup final Sunday was Brazil 3, the United States 2. The Americans proved their upset of top-ranked Spain was no fluke. **24**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Matansa hopes to keep women's team intact

Matansa Football Club hoisted this year's perpetual trophy in the 2009 NMIFA Women's Recreational Football League and hopes to have the club's name engraved in the hardware for several seasons with the same roster. **26**

Junior All-Stars gain World Series ticket

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Junior League All-Stars ended their three-year World Series drought after outlasting Guam in the finals, 10-9, in the 2009 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament last Sunday at the Gelora Bung Karno Baseball Field in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Rightfielder Poland Masaharu scored the winning run at the bottom of the seventh inning on an RBI from centerfielder Patrick Tenorio, who made it to first on a fielders' choice.

Guam tied the game at 9-all after a three-run top of the seventh.

Mahasaru led off for the CNMI at the bottom of the seventh, doubled and later advanced to third on Guam's error. Guam's third pitcher Lorenzo Flores then walked second batter Henry Rabauliman, who moved to second on another Guam miscue.

Tenorio then stepped up to the plate and brought Masaharu home on a field-

See JUNIOR on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI Junior All-Stars flash the No. 1 sign after beating Guam in the finals of the 2009 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament last Sunday at the Gelora Bung Karno Baseball Field in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Fiesta sweeps 2nd round, Shirley's defeats PTC anew

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan completed its sweep of the second round of the Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League after downing Micronesian Brokers, Inc., 86-75, last Saturday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

Fiesta won all five matches in the second round of the regular season, including the rain-suspended game against MBI. Fiesta and MBI's tiff was first played on June 17 and the latter led, 63-59, at the 2:43 mark of

See FIESTA on Page 26

Fiesta's Ferdie De La Torre pulls up for a jumper and bangs into MBI's Marvin Achas during their rain-suspended game in the Shirley's caging, two weeks ago at the J P Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rangers a win away from championship

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Ford Rangers inched closer to the championship in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Baseball after beating an erratic D-9ers in Game 2 of their title series, 21-14, last Friday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Game 3 of the best-of-five title showdown was played last night with the Rangers aiming for a sweep and the D-9ers hoping to extend the series.

After scoring on a run apiece in the first and second innings, the Rangers began hitting their target in the third inning and capitalizing on the D-9ers miscues to score seven runs. Consecutive errors from the D-9ers at the top of the third allowed the Rangers to notch four runs. The pennant champions' three other runs were courtesy of an RBI each from shortstop Shane Yamada, righfielder Roy Celis, and third baseman Benwachi Taisacan.

Despite their erratic defense, the D-9ers remained afloat after six complete innings, as they logged three runs in the first and two each in the fourth and sixth. The D-9ers also shut out the Rangers in the fourth and fifth innings and gave up only two runs in the sixth to fall behind by only two runs, 9-11.

However, the D-9ers continued to commit several errors at the top of the seventh inning, helping the Rangers rack up six more runs

See RANGERS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Rangers' Franco Flores warms up for Game 3 of their title series against the D-9ers in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Baseball yesterday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Half a year of dominance for Raphael

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Raphael Zapanta, second left, won his sixth consecutive Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes Sunday night at the Saipan Bowling Center.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Raphael Zapanta continued his dominance of the youth bowling scene by winning his sixth straight Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes Sunday night at the Saipan Bowling Center in San Jose.

The Saipan Southern High School student knocked down 692 pinfalls in four games following rolls of 169, 160, 198, and 165. He finished with an average of 173.

The victory gave the 14-year-old wunderkind a sweep of the first six monthly tournaments of the competition organized by the Saipan Bowling Association.

Marion McKenzie took runner-up honors after totaling 608 (177, 149, 143, and 139) and averaging 152. Leeanne Yar-

See HALF on Page 26